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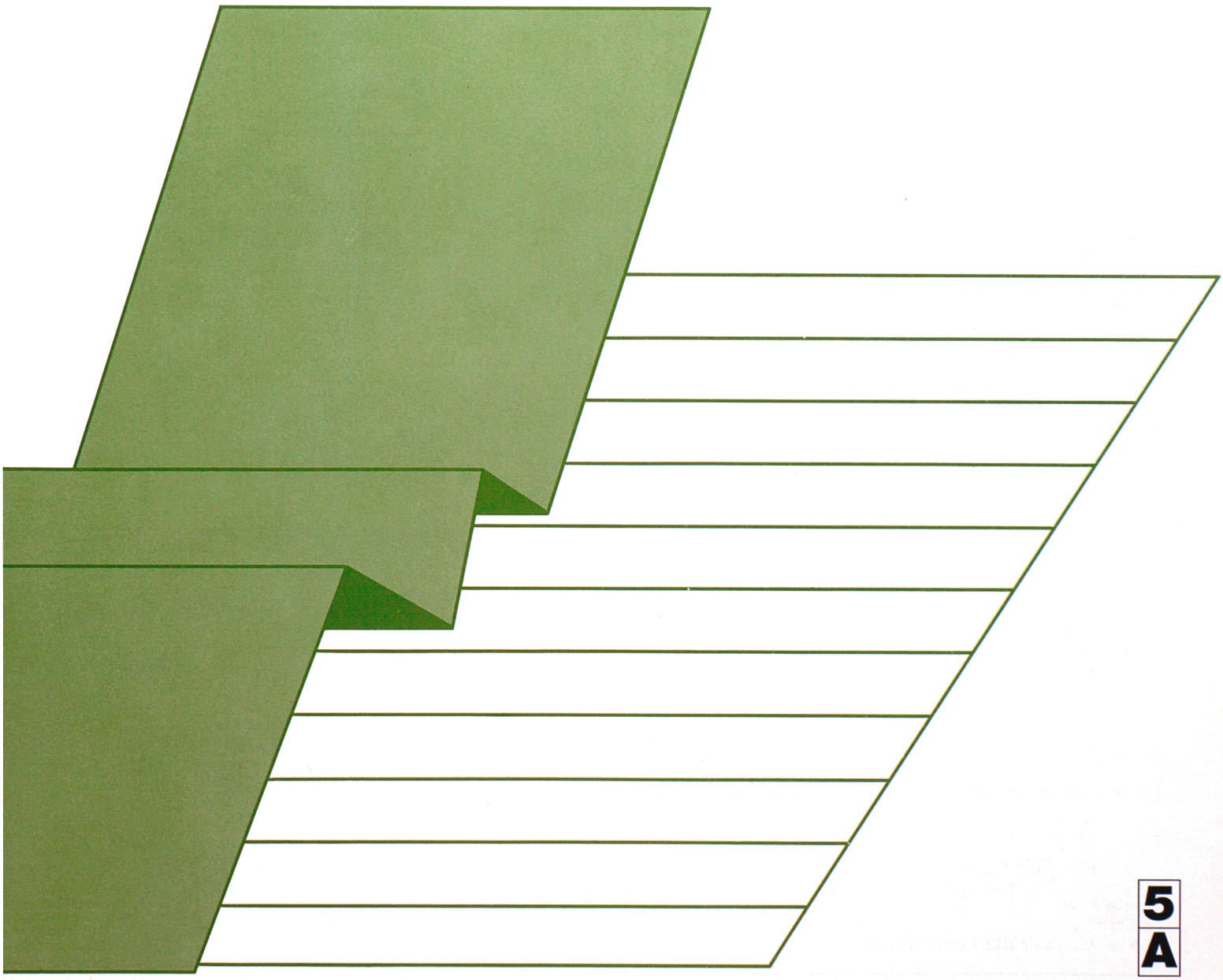
EUROPEAN FISHERIES IN FIGURES



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STATISTISCHES AMT DER EUROPÄISCHEN GEMEINSCHAFTEN
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
OFFICE STATISTIQUE DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES

L-2920 Luxembourg — Tél. (352) 43 01-1 — Télex COMEUR LU 3423
Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Bruxelles — Tél. (32-2) 299 11 11

Eurostat hat die Aufgabe, den Informationsbedarf der Kommission und aller am Aufbau des Binnenmarktes Beteiligten mit Hilfe des europäischen statistischen Systems zu decken.

Um der Öffentlichkeit die große Menge an verfügbaren Daten zugänglich zu machen und Benutzern die Orientierung zu erleichtern, werden zwei Arten von Publikationen angeboten: Statistische Dokumente und Veröffentlichungen.

Statistische Dokumente sind für den Fachmann konzipiert und enthalten das ausführliche Datenmaterial: Bezugsdaten, bei denen die Konzepte allgemein bekannt, standardisiert und wissenschaftlich fundiert sind. Diese Daten werden in einer sehr tiefen Gliederung dargeboten. Die Statistischen Dokumente wenden sich an Fachleute, die in der Lage sind, selbständig die benötigten Daten aus der Fülle des dargebotenen Materials auszuwählen. Diese Daten sind in gedruckter Form und/oder auf Diskette, Magnetband, CD-ROM verfügbar. Statistische Dokumente unterscheiden sich auch optisch von anderen Veröffentlichungen durch den mit einer stilisierten Graphik versehenen weißen Einband.

Veröffentlichungen wenden sich an eine ganz bestimmte Zielgruppe, wie zum Beispiel an den Bildungsbereich oder an Entscheidungsträger in Politik und Verwaltung. Sie enthalten ausgewählte und auf die Bedürfnisse einer Zielgruppe abgestellte und kommentierte Informationen. Eurostat übernimmt hier also eine Art Beraterrolle.

Für einen breiteren Benutzerkreis gibt Eurostat Jahrbücher und periodische Veröffentlichungen heraus. Diese enthalten statistische Ergebnisse für eine erste Analyse sowie Hinweise auf weiteres Datenmaterial für vertiefende Untersuchungen. Diese Veröffentlichungen werden in gedruckter Form und in Datenbanken angeboten, die in Menütechnik zugänglich sind.

Um Benutzern die Datensuche zu erleichtern, hat Eurostat Themenkreise, d. h. eine Untergliederung nach Sachgebieten, eingeführt. Daneben sind sowohl die Statistischen Dokumente als auch die Veröffentlichungen in bestimmte Reihen, wie zum Beispiel „Jahrbücher", „Konjunktur", „Methoden", untergliedert, um den Zugriff auf die statistischen Informationen zu erleichtern.

Y. Franchet
Generaldirektor

It is Eurostat's responsibility to use the European statistical system to meet the requirements of the Commission and all parties involved in the development of the single market.

To ensure that the vast quantity of accessible data is made widely available, and to help each user make proper use of this information, Eurostat has set up two main categories of document: statistical documents and publications.

The statistical document is aimed at specialists and provides the most complete sets of data: reference data where the methodology is well-established, standardised, uniform and scientific. These data are presented in great detail. The statistical document is intended for experts who are capable of using their own means to seek out what they require. The information is provided on paper and/or on diskette, magnetic tape, CD-ROM. The white cover sheet bears a stylised motif which distinguishes the statistical document from other publications.

The publications proper tend to be compiled for a well-defined and targeted public, such as educational circles or political and administrative decision-makers. The information in these documents is selected, sorted and annotated to suit the target public. In this instance, therefore, Eurostat works in an advisory capacity.

Where the readership is wider and less well-defined, Eurostat provides the information required for an initial analysis, such as yearbooks and periodicals which contain data permitting more in-depth studies. These publications are available on paper or in videotext databases.

To help the user focus his research, Eurostat has created 'themes', i.e. subject classifications. The statistical documents and publications are listed by series: for example, yearbooks, short-term trends or methodology in order to facilitate access to the statistical data.

Y. Franchet
Director-General

Pour établir, évaluer ou apprécier les différentes politiques communautaires, la Commission européenne a besoin d'informations.

Eurostat a pour mission, à travers le système statistique européen, de répondre aux besoins de la Commission et de l'ensemble des personnes impliquées dans le développement du marché unique.

Pour mettre à la disposition de tous l'importante quantité de données accessibles et faire en sorte que chacun puisse s'orienter correctement dans cet ensemble, deux grandes catégories de documents ont été créées: les documents statistiques et les publications.

Le document statistique s'adresse aux spécialistes. Il fournit les données les plus complètes: données de référence où la méthodologie est bien connue, standardisée, normalisée et scientifique. Ces données sont présentées à un niveau très détaillé. Le document statistique est destiné aux experts capables de rechercher, par leurs propres moyens, les données requises. Les informations sont alors disponibles sur papier et/ou sur disquette, bande magnétique, CD-ROM. La couverture blanche ornée d'un graphisme stylisé démarque le document statistique des autres publications.

Les publications proprement dites peuvent, elles, être réalisées pour un public bien déterminé, ciblé, par exemple l'enseignement ou les décideurs politiques ou administratifs. Des informations sélectionnées, triées et commentées en fonction de ce public lui sont apportées. Eurostat joue, dès lors, le rôle de conseiller.

Dans le cas d'un public plus large, moins défini, Eurostat procure des éléments nécessaires à une première analyse, les annuaires et les périodiques, dans lesquels figurent les renseignements adéquats pour approfondir l'étude. Ces publications sont présentées sur papier ou dans des banques de données de type vidéotex.

Pour aider l'utilisateur à s'orienter dans ses recherches, Eurostat a créé les thèmes, c'est-à-dire une classification par sujet. Les documents statistiques et les publications sont répertoriés par série — par exemple, annuaire, conjoncture, méthodologie — afin de faciliter l'accès aux informations statistiques.

Y. Franchet
Directeur général

EUROPEAN FISHERIES IN FIGURES

Theme
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries
Series
Yearbooks and yearly statistics

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STATISTICAL DOCUMENT

This manuscript for this publication was prepared by Ms Inger-Lise Dahl and Mr David Cross

For further information regarding the data contained in this publication please contact

Mr David Cross
Section "Fisheries"
Directorate for Agriculture, Environment and Energy Statistics
Eurostat
L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel: +352 4301 37249
Fax: + 352 4301 37318
e-mail: david.cross@eurostat.cec.be

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Introduction

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Fisheries in EU Member States are not important contributors to the national economies. It is difficult to obtain a precise measure but it is unlikely that they contribute 1% to the national Gross National Production. However, this seriously undervalues the importance of fisheries. They are of paramount importance to the social and economic life of many less developed regions of Member States where, very often, the local populations are heavily dependant, directly or indirectly, on fisheries for their livelihood and where alternative employment is difficult to find.

The situation is rather different in the two non-EU fishing nations in the European Economic Area (EEA), Iceland and Norway. In these two countries, fisheries are extremely important in socio-economic terms and both countries are major exporters of fishery products.

One of the outstanding features of fisheries is that seldom has a country the exclusive fishing rights to a particular stock of fish. Fish do not respect man-made borders and one stock may have a distribution covering the areas falling under the jurisdiction of more than one national authority. Stocks may also be found in "international waters" (that is, outside the national extended economic zones) where, until recently at least, there has been little control over the activities of fishing vessels. Thus the management of fish stocks has to be controlled by agreement between all the countries having access to those stocks.

Fisheries can also come into conflict with other uses of water. This is particularly the case in coastal areas where fishing, fish farming, industrial and leisure uses of water may be difficult to reconcile.

The purpose of this publication is to highlight certain aspects of EEA fisheries, in particular indicating the current situation (principally, 1995, the latest year for which full data are available) and indicating how this situation has changed from that in 1970. The year 1970 has been selected because it was the period before the major extension of national jurisdictions to 200 miles from the coast-lines and because it was before the establishing of the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy.

It must be stressed that the changes noted between the situations in 1970 and 1995 should not be automatically attributed to these two events. In 1970 fisheries were subject to little regulation. Very high catches in that year should not be taken as indicating that the fish stocks were in a satisfactory state: an increasing number of fishing vessels may have been fishing those stocks. In such situations the initial catch could be expected to be high but it would not be sustained for any number of years. The primary object of the extension of economic zones and, in the case of the European Union, the establishing of the Common Fisheries Policy, was to provide for sustainable fisheries (albeit, in many cases at a lower level than in the previous "free-for-all" situation).

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Methodological notes

The source of data used in this publication is largely the fisheries domain of the Eurostat's NewCronos data-base. However Eurostat collaborates very closely with other international bodies compiling fishery statistics (notably the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations [FAO], the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea [ICES], the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation [NAFO] and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas [ICCAT]). The collaboration of these organisations in the compilation of Eurostat's data (particularly for non-EU countries) is very gratefully acknowledged.

"EUR 15" in tables and the text refers to the current European Union with 15 member states (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom). The 1970 data for these countries have been aggregated to provide a EUR 15 total, even though the European Union did not have 15 Member States at that time.

"EEA" in tables and text refers to the European Economic Area which comprises the EUR 15 countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

"Germany" refers to Germany as it exists currently. Data for the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic have been aggregated for the period before reunification.

"United Kingdom" excludes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Aquaculture production data have only been collected separately from catch statistics since 1984. In certain cases, Eurostat has calculated the catch data (that is, excluding aquaculture production data) for 1970 knowing that aquaculture production, particularly, in the EEA was at a very low level in that year and that it was of a few readily identifiable species.

Unless otherwise noted, the weight of fishery products is recorded in the live weight equivalent of the landings (or production). This is the weight of the fish landed multiplied by a factor to compensate for changes between the time of capture and landing (eg gutting, filleting). Fish caught but not landed (for example, fish consumed on board and fish rejected) are excluded from the data.

Country codes used in this publication

Code	Country
B	Belgium
DK	Denmark
D	Germany
E	Spain
F	France
EL	Greece
IRL	Ireland
I	Italy
NL	Netherlands
P	Portugal
A	Austria
FIN	Finland
S	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom
EUR 15	European Union (15 member states)
ISL	Iceland
NOR	Norway
EEA	European Economic Area
ANG	Angola
CAN	Canada
CHL	Chile
CHN	China (mainland)
DZA	Algeria
ex-USSR	Republics of the former USSR
FRO	Faroe Islands
GHA	Ghana
GRL	Greenland
JPN	Japan
MRC	Morocco
NAM	Namibia
NIG	Nigeria
PER	Peru
POL	Poland
SEN	Senegal
SPM	St. Pierre-Miquelon
TUN	Tunisia
TUR	Turkey
USA	United States of America
ZAF	South Africa

World Production of Fishery Products

The world production of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic organisms in 1995 was 112.3 million tonnes. This includes 20.8 million tonnes of aquaculture production.

EEA countries produced 12.5 million tonnes in 1995. This represents 11% of the world total. China, which is the leading fishery producer in the world, had a production of 24.2 million tonnes, 22% of the world total. Other large producing countries are Peru (8%), Chile (7%), Japan (6%), USA (5%) and the former republics of the USSR (4%).

In the period between 1970-95 the world production increased by 73%. This increase was achieved in a fairly regular manner despite the very large and irregular fluctuations in the catches in the Southeast Pacific due to the effect of the el Nino current. The combined production of Peru and Chile, the two countries with the major involvement in the fisheries of that area, fluctuated from a minimum of 2.9 million tonnes in 1973 to a maximum of 19.8 million tonnes in 1994.

China showed a remarkable increase in production, from 3 million tonnes in 1970 to 24 million tonnes in 1995. No other country approached this increase. The USA doubled its production to 5.6 million but other major producers (for example, Japan and the republics of the ex-USSR) have experienced a reduction in the level of production.

Separate data for aquaculture production and capture fisheries are only available from 1984 but over the limited period 1984-95 the contribution of aquaculture to the total increased from 7.9% in 1984 to 18.5% in 1995.

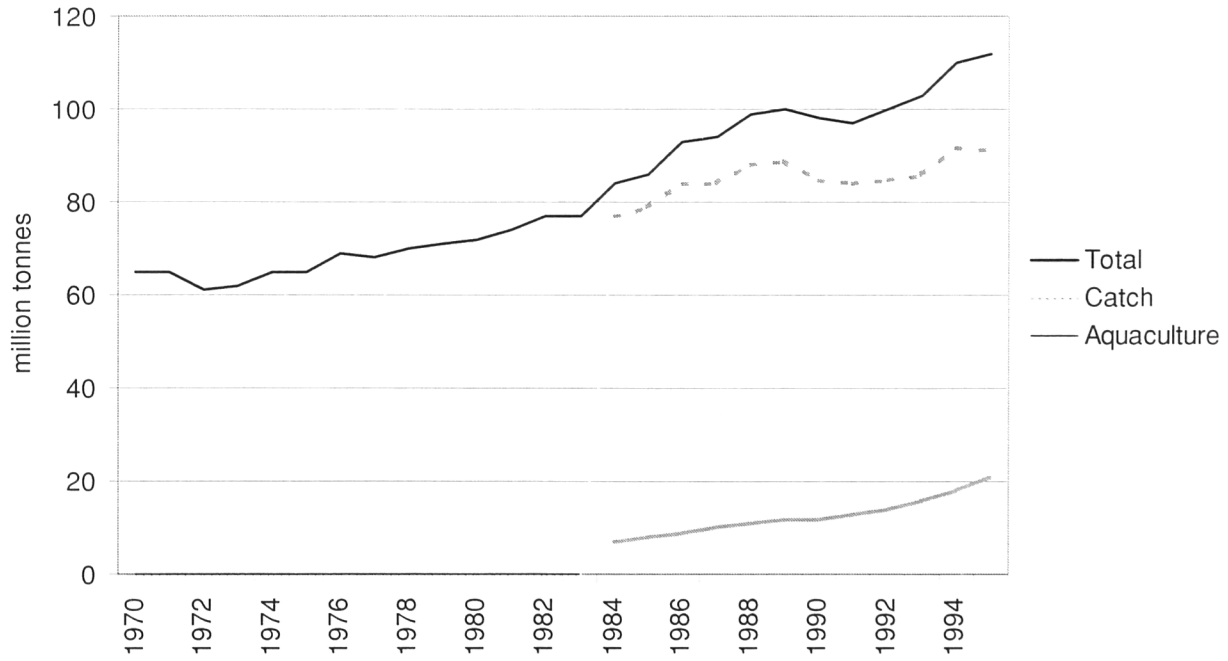
World production of fishery products

(thousand metric tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
CHN	3 046	24 244
EEA	10 920	12 524
PER	12 483	8 943
CHL	1 193	7 533
JPN	8 786	6 629
USA	2 808	5 606
ex-USSR	7 208	4 866
World	65 050	112 336

Source: Eurostat/FAO

World production of fishery products: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

EEA production by country

Of the EU Member States Denmark had a largest production of 2 million tonnes in 1995 (25% of the EU total). A large part of this is of fish for industrial purposes (reduction to fish meal and oils). Spain, with 1.3 million tonnes was the next largest contributor to the total (16%) and the greatest part of this was for human consumption. The United Kingdom, with 1 million tonnes (12%) was third in the ranking.

Two of the three non-EU EEA countries, Norway and Iceland, made major contributions to the EEA total production of 12.5 million tonnes. Norway contributed 2.8 million tonnes (22% of the EEA total) and Iceland produced 1.6 million tonnes (13%). The third non-EU EEA country, Liechtenstein has no reported fisheries.

Comparing the production in 1995 with that in 1970 shows a considerable differences between the countries. In absolute terms the greatest increases were recorded by Iceland and Denmark. Iceland's increase from 0.7 to 1.6 million tonnes may be attributed to the access it now has to stocks in the extended economic zone. Denmark's increase is due largely to the development of industrial fisheries, notably for sandeels.

Less significant in absolute terms but non-theless noteworthy is the five-fold increase in the Irish catches between 1970 and 1995. A policy of developing the Irish fishing industry has certainly contributed to this increase.

Of the countries recording negative changes the most outstanding is that for Germany, due principally to the large reduction in the distant-water fleet of the former-German Democratic Republic. The decreases in Spain and Portugal are also due in part at least to the reduced fishing possibilities in distant waters

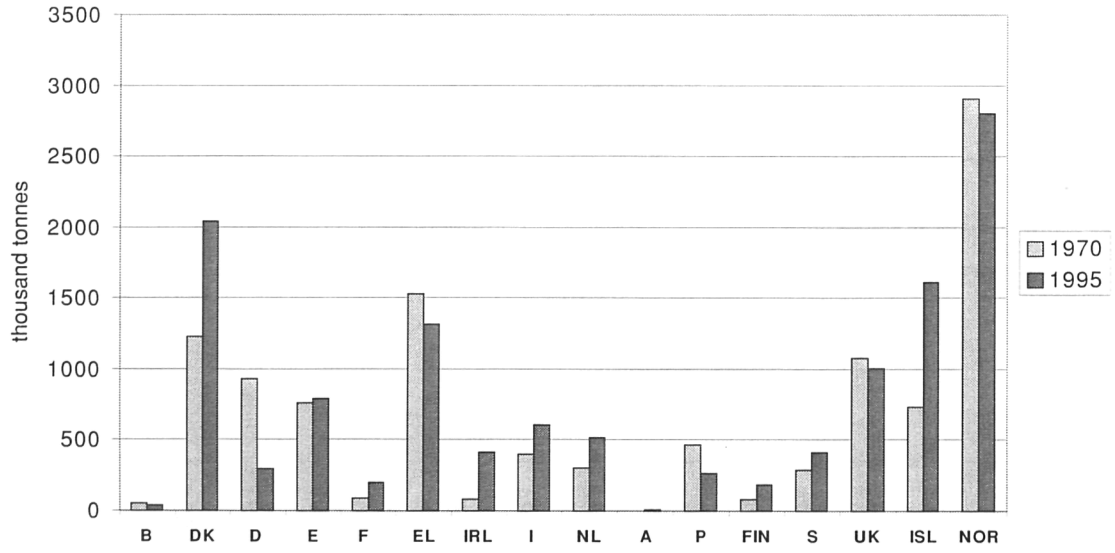
EEA Production of Fishery Products

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995	% change
B	53 000	36 445	-31
DK	1 224 700	2 041 132	+67
D	932 514	298 017	-68
F	761 691	793 234	+4
EL	88 500	198 217	+124
E	1 532 017	1 320 000	-14
IRL	78 900	412 712	+423
I	395 894	609 768	+54
NL	300 000	521 377	+74
A	3 200	4 458	+39
P	462 826	265 508	-43
FIN	80 700	184 829	+129
S	285 869	412 153	+44
UK	1 077 400	1 003 740	-7
EUR 15	7 277 211	8 101 590	+11
ISL	733 800	1 615 108	+120
NOR	2 908 770	2 807 549	-4
EEA	10 919 781	12 524 247	+14

Source: Eurostat/FAO

EEA Production of Fishery Products



Source: Eurostat/FAO

EEA catches by major fishing region

In 1995, 95% of EEA catches were taken in the three major regions adjacent to those countries (that is, the Northeast Atlantic, the Eastern Central Atlantic and Mediterranean). Although this is no great surprise, it does demonstrate a decrease in the importance of distant water fisheries. In 1970 it is estimated that 10.6% of the catches were taken from the Northwest Atlantic and the Southeast Atlantic. These two regions only contributed 0.8% to the total in 1995. Recently activities have been developed in other more distant water regions (the Western Central Atlantic, the Southwest Atlantic, the Western Indian Ocean and the Antarctic) in an attempt to replace the fishing possibilities lost in the Northwest Atlantic and Southeast Atlantic. However, these new regions have only contributed 3.1% to the total.

It is also to be noted that inland fisheries are of minimal importance in their contribution to the total catch.

Catches in EEA countries in major fishing regions in 1970 and 1995

	1970([1])		1995	
	Catch	% of total catch	Catch	% of total catch
Atlantic, Northwest	858 800	8.1	52 876	0.5
Atlantic, Northeast	8 318 503	78.7	9 528 900	84.9
Atlantic, Western Central	0	0.0	1 948	0.0
Atlantic, Eastern Central	524 350	5.0	437 347	3.9
Mediterranean and Black Sea	520 263	4.9	686 297	6.1
Atlantic, Southwest	0	0.0	113 719	1.0
Atlantic, Southeast	267 400	2.5	30 503	0.3
Indian Ocean, Antarctic	0	0.0	4 173	0.0
Indian Ocean, Western	0	0.0	240 034	2.1
Europe - Inland waters	82 965	0.8	126 723	1.1
Total EEA catch	10 572 281	100	11 222 520	100

Source: Eurostat/FAO

([1]) 1970 data have been calculated by Eurostat. See methodological notes.

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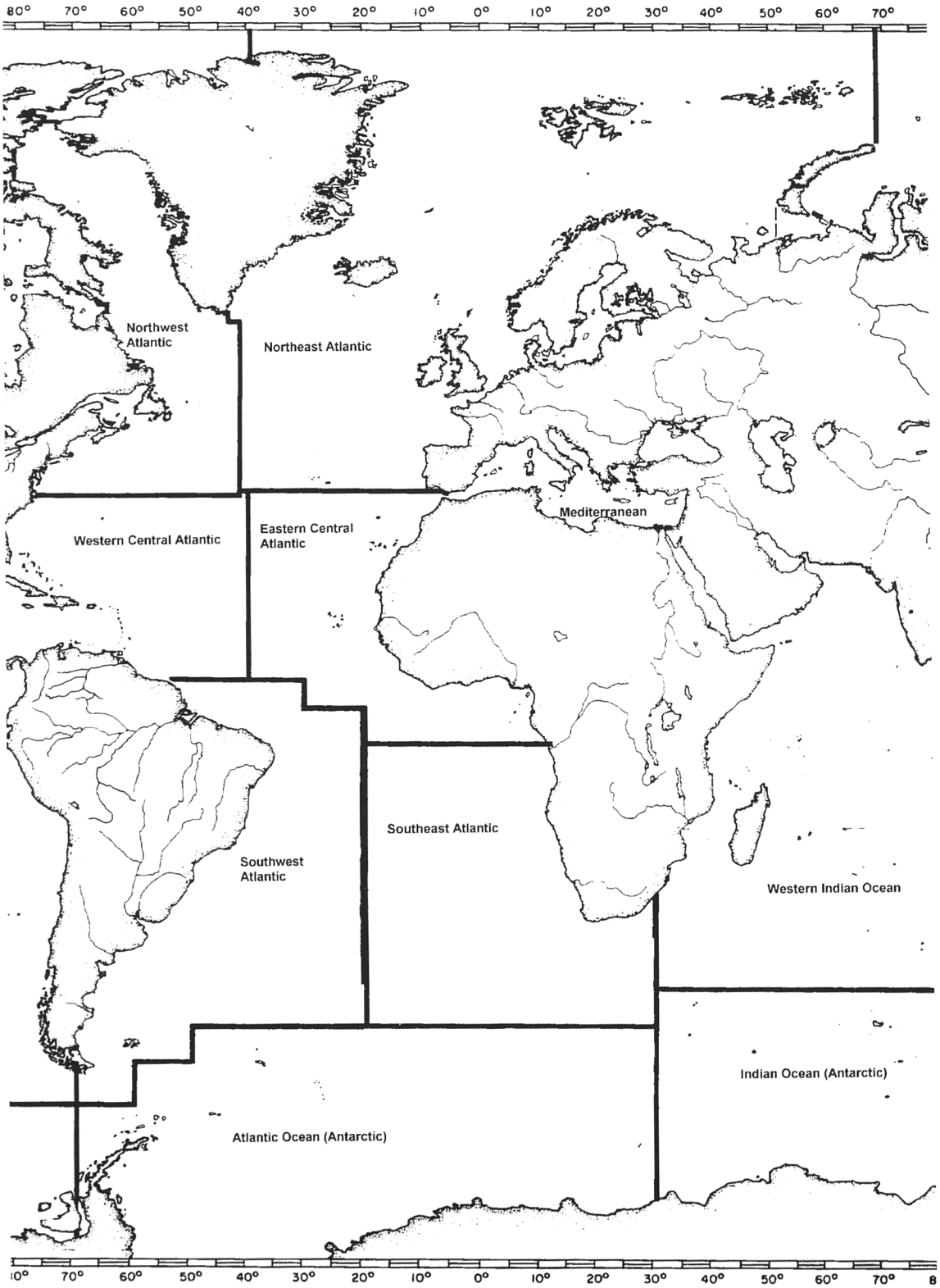
Chart of major fishing areas



Northwest Atlantic

The Northwest Atlantic is a traditional fishing area of the distant water fishing fleets of Western Europe. However due the exclusion of these fleets from the extended economic zones of the coastal states and the poor state of the major fish stocks of the region in recent years the EEA's fishing possibilities in the Northwest Atlantic have been greatly reduced. In 1995 EEA countries only obtained 0.4% of their catches in this region.

In 1995 the total EEA catch in the Northwest Atlantic was 53 thousand tonnes, only 6% of the 859 thousand tonnes caught in 1970. Indeed several EEA nations with a long-standing tradition of activities in the region (notably Germany, France and the UK) have not reported significant level of fishing for several years.

The total catch in the region by all countries in 1995 was just over 2 million tonnes, only half the 4.1 million tonnes recorded in 1970. This decrease is almost entirely due to decreased catches by vessels from non-coastal states. The coastal states (Canada, Greenland, St Pierre-Miquelon and the USA) have a reduced level of catch in 1995 compared with 1970 but their share of the catch has increased from 53% in 1970 to 95% in 1990.

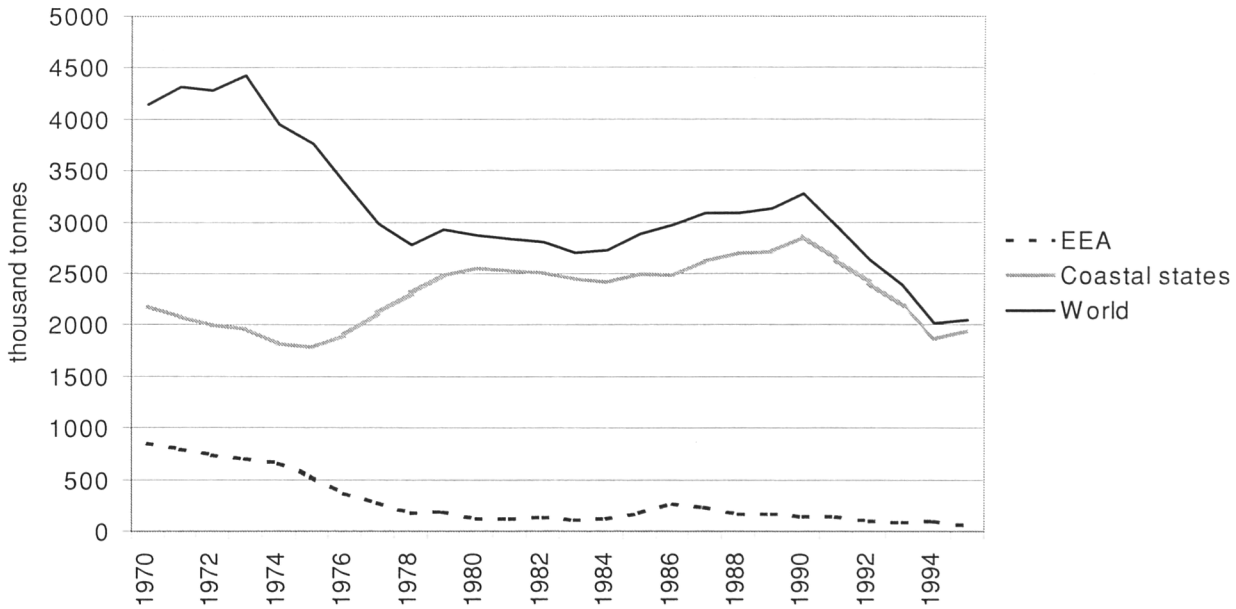
Catches in the Northwest Atlantic

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
DK	400	446
D	295 000	0
E	280 400	20 069
F	66 400	0
P	162 700	12 532
UK	6 700	0
EUR 15	811 600	33 047
ISL	0	8 232
NOR	47 200	11 597
EEA	858 800	52 876
CAN	1 170 142	627 713
GRL	38 000	108 702
SPM	6 700	893
USA	967 800	1 209 555
World	4 145 124	2 047 116

Source: Eurostat/NAFO

Catches in the Northwest Atlantic: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/NAFO

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Northeast Atlantic

The Northeast Atlantic is the major fishing area for the fishing fleets of EEA countries. In 1995, 80% of EEA catches come from this region and it is the source of the greater part of the catches of all the countries except Greece and Italy.

In 1995 the total EEA catch in the region was 9.5 million tonnes, an increase of 1.2 million tonnes or nearly 15% since 1970.

The EEA accounted for 87% of the catches in the region in 1995, with the EUR 15 taking 49%. The three remaining coastal regions, the republics of the former USSR, the Faroe Islands and Poland accounted for most of the remaining catches. There was little fishing in the region by vessels from non-coastal states.

Over the period 1970-95 EUR 15 catches remained relatively steady at around 5 million tonnes per year. There was a greater variability in the EEA catches due to fluctuations in the Norwegian catch between a maximum of 3.3 million tonnes (in 1977) and minimum of 1.6 million tonnes (in 1990).

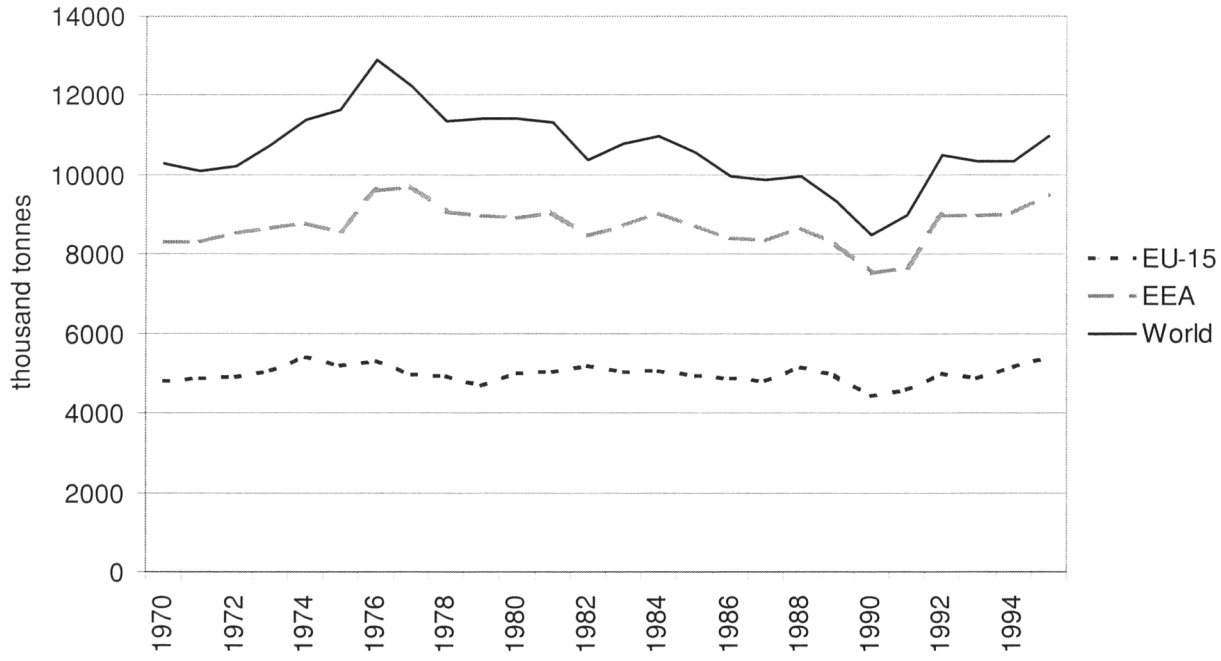
Catches in the Northeast Atlantic

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	53 000	35 088
DK	1 214 900	1 998 217
D	569 614	216 864
E	532 803	410 596
F	505 795	297 305
IRL	75 000	377 029
NL	211 900	433 985
P	248 024	216 629
FIN	62 600	119 048
S	284 004	402 643
UK	1 064 300	905 676
EUR 15	4 822 840	5 413 080
ISL	733 300	1 602 652
NOR	2 764 263	2 513 068
EEA	8 319 503	9 528 800
ex-USSR	1 561 800	736 709
FRO	181 600	280 912
POL	203 700	130 214
World	10 283 470	10 958 018

Source: Eurostat/ICES

Catches in the Northeast Atlantic: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/ICES

Eastern Central Atlantic

Although in recent years 5 EUR 15 Member States have fished in the EC Atlantic, the region only accounts for 3% of the total EEA catch.

In 1995 the total EEA catch in the Eastern Central Atlantic was 437 thousand tonnes. The main major contribution to this total was by Spain (328 thousand tonnes, 75%). The 1995 catch was a decrease of 17% on the 1970 total (524 thousand tonnes) but this may be explained by the absence of catches by Norway in the area after 1975.

The total catch in the Eastern Central Atlantic increased by 30% from 2.5 million tonnes in 1970 to 3.2 million tonnes in 1995. This increase can be attributed to a doubling, at least, of catches of coastal states from 818 thousand tonnes in 1970 to 1 960 thousand tonnes in 1995. The proportion of the total catch taken by coastal states increased from 33% in 1970 to 61% in 1995.

Catches in the Eastern Central Atlantic

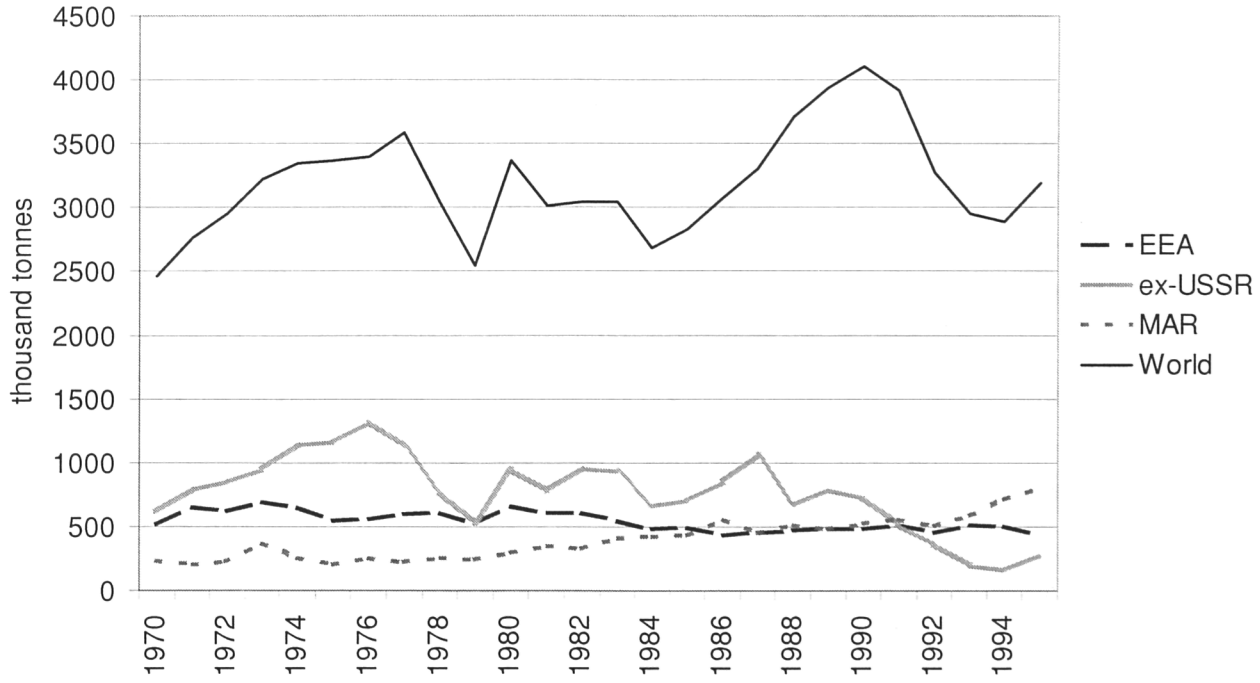
(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
D	29 100	0
EL	32 400	8 684
E	224 545	327 871
F	51 96	70 401
I	58 900	8 067
P	31 202	22 324
EUR 15	427 243	437 347
NOR	97 107	0
EEA	524 350	437 347
ex-USSR	612 729	812 671
GHA	141 500	290 785
JPN	142 900	25 048
MAR	236 386	805 792
NIG	105 900	232 709
SEN	105 087	318 228
World	2 460 911	3 194 284

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches in the Eastern Central Atlantic: 1970-95

Source: Eurostat/FAO



Mediterranean and Black Seas

The Mediterranean and Black Seas are generally recognised as being areas of lower productivity than the adjacent North Atlantic due principally to the closed water circulation in the region.

The EEA catches have steadily increased from 520 thousand tonnes in 1970 to 686 thousand tonnes in 1995. All the EU coastal states except France increased their catch. Greece recorded the greatest increase, nearly tripling its catch from 49 thousand tonnes to 139 thousand tonnes in the period.

Between 1970 and 1988 the total catch in the Mediterranean increased quite sharply from 1.1 million to 2.0 million tonnes. The non-EU countries contributing most to this increase were Algeria, Turkey and Tunisia. However in the late 1980's the total catches declined sharply, due largely to reduced fishing by the republics of the former-USSR. The early 1990's have shown a renewed increase due to a stabilisation of the situation for the republics of the former USSR (albeit at a low level) and the increased catches by the previously mentioned countries.

In 1995 the EU's contribution to the total catch was 41%. Although this was less than in 1970 (when it was 47%) it is a recovery from the situation in 1986 when it had fallen to 31%. An unusual feature of fisheries in the region is that, throughout the period 1970-95, they have been conducted almost exclusively by vessels from coastal states. Only about 3% of the catches are currently by vessels from outside the region: these vessels fish almost exclusively for tuna species.

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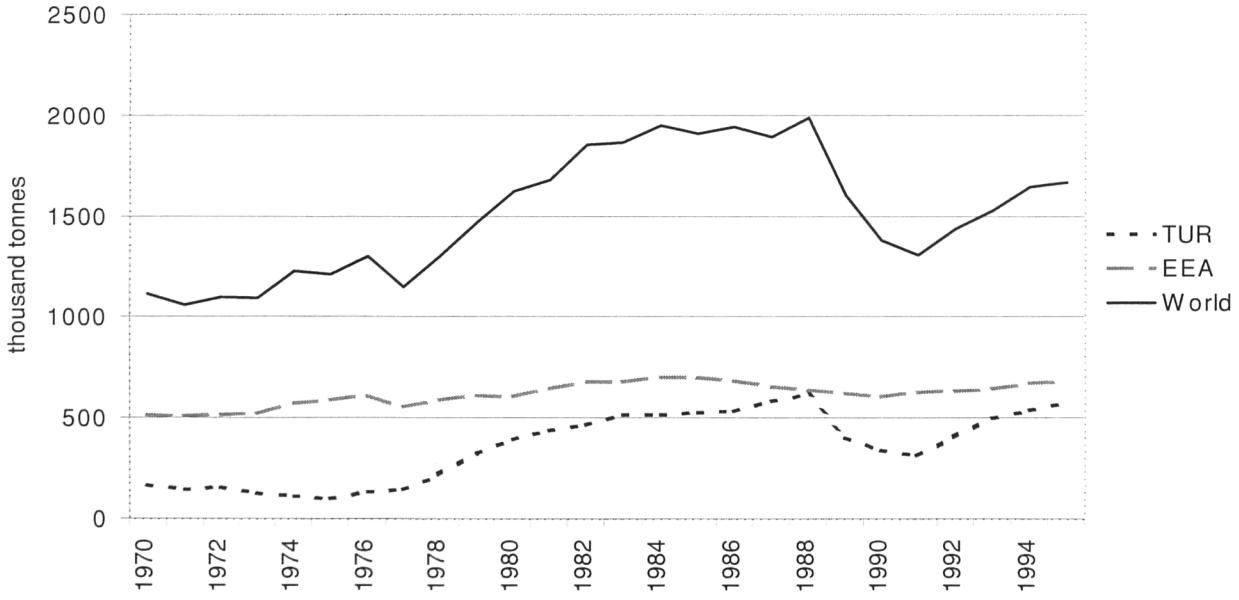
Catches in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
E	121 969	143 253
F	44 000	34 212
EL	49 100	139 304
I	305 194	369 082
P	0	446
EUR 15	520 263	686 297
ex-USSR	302 500	62 434
DZA	25 700	105 902
TUN	24 034	83 296
TUR	161 283	590 617
World	1 112 586	1 667 829

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches in the Mediterranean and Black Seas: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Southwest Atlantic

It was in 1983 that EEA countries commenced fishery activities in the Southwest Atlantic. Eight of these countries have fished in the region for at least part of the period 1983-95 with a maximum catch of 128 thousand tonnes being recorded in 1988.

Other distant water fleets have similarly increased their catches. Their catches increased from 33 thousand tonnes in 1970 to 409 thousand tonnes in 1995, having attained a maximum value of 918 thousand tonnes in 1987. However the greatest increase in catches was recorded by Argentina, from 185 thousand tonnes in 1970 to 1.1 million tonnes in 1995.

The result of these increases in catches by both the distant water and coastal state fleets was a more than three-fold increase in the total catches from the region, from 711 thousand tonnes in 1970 to 2.4 million tonnes in 1995.

The major species caught by EEA countries have been Argentine hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*) and, predominantly, various species of squid.

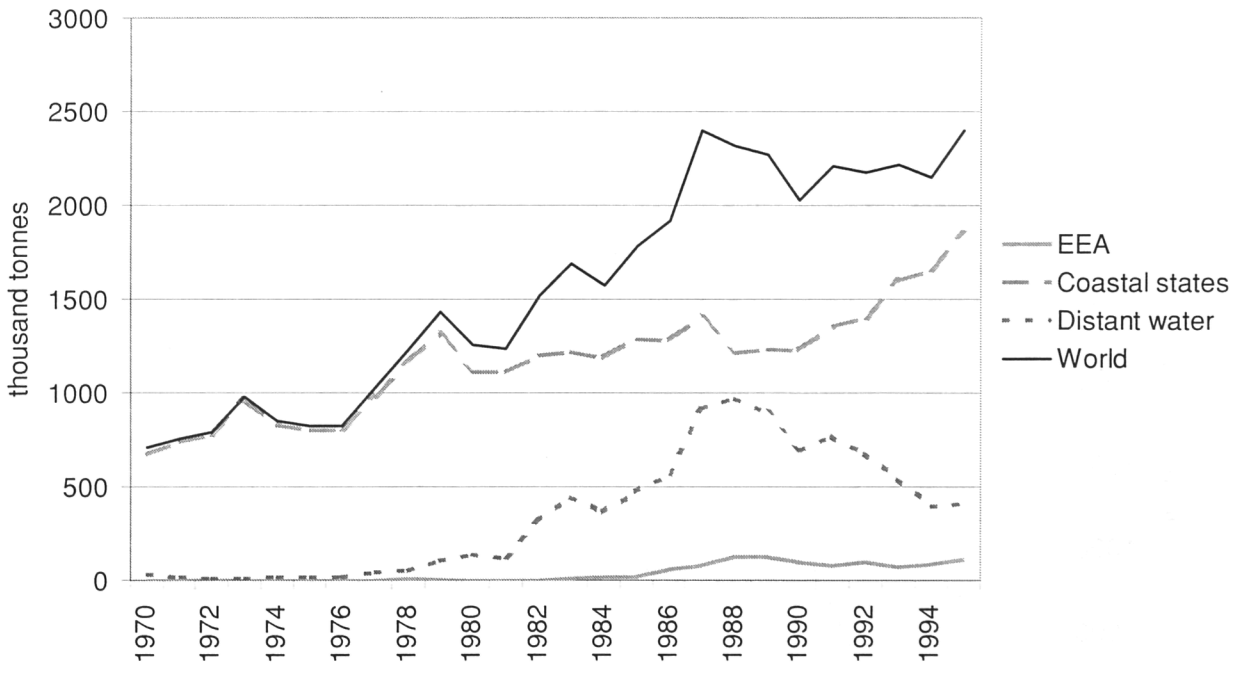
Catches in the Southwest Atlantic

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
E	0	96 171
F	0	7 330
I	0	960
P	0	7 178
UK	0	2 080
EUR 15	0	113 719
BRA	479 440	590 000
ARG	185 300	1 134 648
TAI	9 743	144 760
KOR	0	141 635
JPN	13 800	93 945
World	711 283	2 402 129

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches in the Southwest Atlantic: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

eurostat

Southeast Atlantic

The EEA's catches in the Southeast Atlantic have decreased greatly in the period 1970-95, from 267 thousand tonnes to 31 thousand tonnes. This decrease of 89% may be associated with the exclusion of distant water vessels from Namibian waters after that country's independence. Other distant water nations (for example, Japan and the republics of the former-USSR) also experienced decreased catches over this period although to a lesser degree, by 45% and 60% respectively. Indeed the total catch by all countries from the region has halved from 2.5 million tonnes in 1970 to 1.3 million tonnes in 1995. This decrease has not been steady: there have been fluctuations, with a maximum catch of 3.3 million tonnes in 1978.

Five EEA countries fished in the SE Atlantic for at least part of the period 1970-95: Germany, Spain, France, Italy and Portugal. Spain made by far the greatest contribution to the total EEA catch, averaging 78% over the period, with Portugal making the next largest contribution at 10%.

The major species caught in the EEA fisheries were Cape hakes *(Merluccius capensis*, *M. paradox*), horse mackerels (*Trachurus* spp.) and chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*).

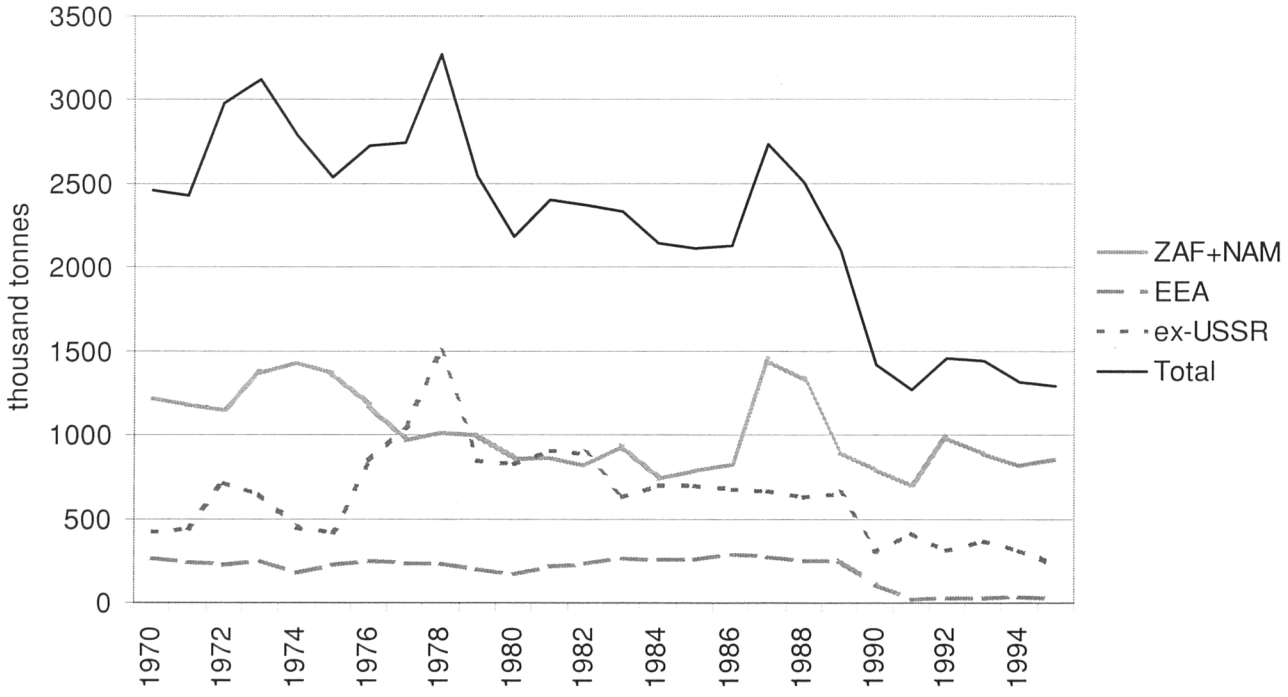
Catches in the SE Atlantic

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
D	600	0
E	246 000	28 976
I	0	109
P	20 800	1 418
EEA	267 400	30 503
ZAF+NAM	1 223 700	858 123
ANG	367 501	87 847
ex-USSR	422 200	230 883
JPN	84 800	34 118
World	2 459 974	1 294 644

Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICSEAF

Catches in the Southeast Atlantic: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICSEAF

Western Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean is not a traditional fishing region for EEA nations. Indeed, recent interest is largely due to tuna vessels transferring their activities from the more southerly grounds of the Atlantic Ocean. Five EEA countries have fished in the region since 1970 with France, Spain and the United Kingdom concentrating on tuna species. Italy has fished for a broad spectrum of species and Germany has concentrated on crustaceans (prawns).

In 1995 the EEA catch was 240 thousand tonnes, with Spain accounting for 60% of the total and France 39%. Tuna species accounted for 236 thousand tonnes or 98% of the total.

The total catch in the Western Indian Ocean has more than doubled in the period 1970-1995, from 1.6 to 3.9 million tonnes. By far the major fishing nation in the region is India, which itself has more than doubled its catch in the same period. In 1995, it accounted for 47% of the catch in the region. Altogether coastal states accounted for the major part (88%) of the catches from the region.

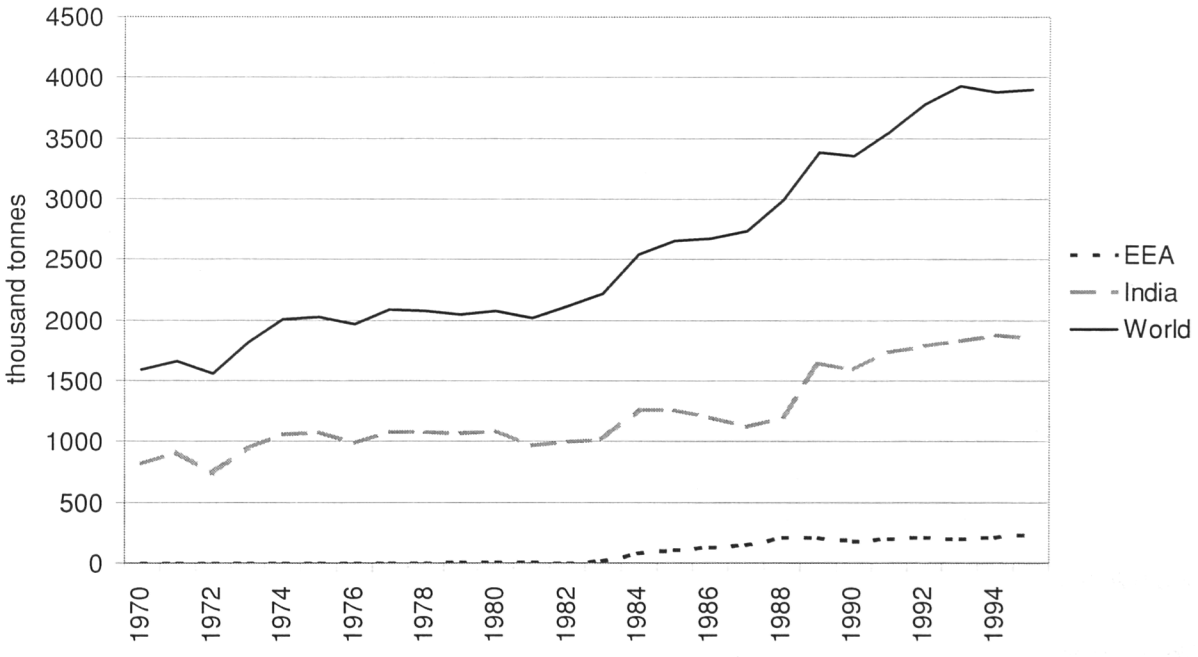
Catches in the Western Indian Ocean

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
F	0	94 528
I	0	1 650
E	0	143 856
EEA	0	240 034
IND	825 800	1 850 646
World	1 595 000	3 899 980

Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICSEAF

Catches in the Western Indian Ocean: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICSEAF

eurostat

Inland waters

Although the data on the catches in inland waters of EEA countries are generally of limited reliability, it is evident that these fisheries do not make a substantial contribution to the total supply of fish. In 1995 only about 1% of the total catches came from inland fisheries.

Finland, at 48 thousand tonnes, made the largest contribution to the EEA total. However, the Finnish data for 1995 include catches by sports fishermen and are probably not comparable with the data from other countries. Data for 1970 have been calculated (from the total inland production less estimates of the aquaculture production) and, noting that the 1970 data for Finland do not include catches of sports fishermen, suggest that there has been little change in catches in the period 1970-95.

The EEA inland catch was 67% of the total European catch but only 2% of the total world catch from inland waters. Asia (4.3 million tonnes or 58% of the total) and Africa (1.8 million tonnes or 25% of the total) make by far the major contributions to this total.

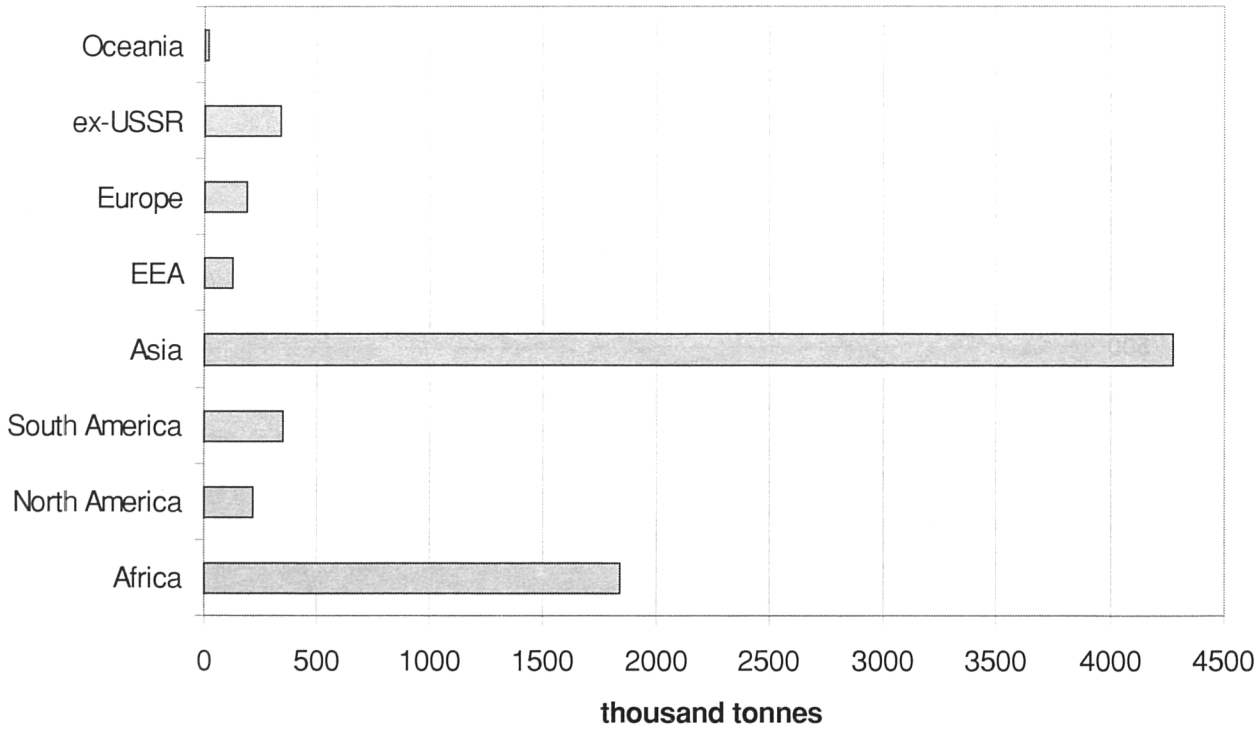
Catches in inland waters

(metric tonnes)

	1970([1])	1995
B	0	511
DK	9 400	264
D	19 600	22 889
E	12 300	9 000
F	1 500	4 500
EL	7 000	17 585
IRL	200	3 761
I	9 000	10 035
NL	1 300	4 107
A	1 300	400
FIN	18 100	48 436
S	1 665	1 937
UK	900	2 146
EUR 15	82 265	125 571
ISL	500	739
NOR	200	413
EEA	82 965	126 723

([1]) estimated by Eurostat: see Methodological Notes
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches in inland waters: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catch by species groups

In fishery statistics, the species caught are divided into major groups based partly on their biological classification and partly on their habitat.

Two of these groups of fish species (the cods, hakes and haddocks and the herrings, sardines and anchovies) account between them for nearly 42% of the total catch of fishery products by EEA countries. Not surprisingly, these two groups are the targets of important traditional fisheries.

However there are considerable variations in the compositions of the catches of EEA countries. Taking four countries as examples, one sees that Greece has no dominant species group, the maximum contribution being just over 20%. On the other hand Belgium depends on flounders, halibuts and soles (50%) and cods, hakes and haddocks (24%) for the major part of its catch. Norway also relies on two groups, but with herrings, sardines and anchovies replacing flounders, halibuts and soles. Only the two southern countries caught appreciable proportions of the group, tunas, bonitos and billfishes.

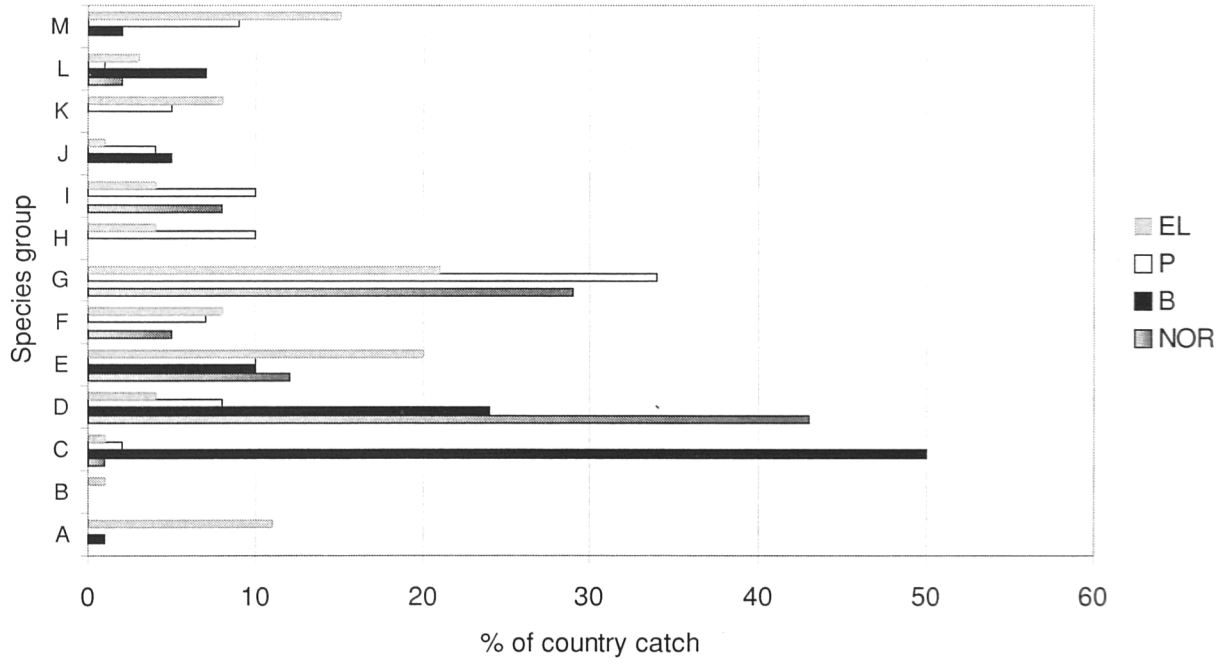
Catch by species groups in 1995

(tonnes live weight)

	Species group	EEA Catch	%
A	Freshwater fish	109 872	1.0
B	Diadromous fish	41 801	0.4
C	Flounders, halibuts, soles	343 620	3.1
D	Cods, hakes, haddocks	2 616 972	23.3
E	Redfishes, basses, congers	1 552 516	13.8
F	Jacks, mullets, sauries	1 383 418	12.3
G	Herrings, sardines, anchovies	2 763 958	24.6
H	Tunas, bonitos, billfishes	526 820	4.7
I	Mackerels. snoeks, cutlassfishes	692 135	6.2
J	Sharks, rays, chimaeras	92 775	0.8
K	Miscellaneous marine fishes	170 553	1.5
L	Crustacea	230 762	2.1
M	Molluscs	597 318	5.3
	Total	11 222 520	100

Source: Eurostat

Catches by species groups: 1995



Source: Eurostat

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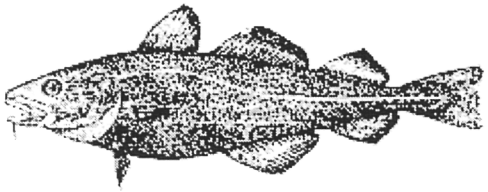
Atlantic cod



The Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) is one of the most important of food fish in Western Europe and is the subject of traditional fisheries in the North Atlantic. Several centuries ago, vessels from Western European countries made hazardous journeys to the fishing grounds off Newfoundland for the abundant cod stocks.

In 1995 EEA countries caught 849 thousand tonnes of cod. Iceland and Norway caught 67% of the total but all the countries except Greece and Italy made contributions. The 1995 EEA total is only 40% of the catch in 1970. With the exception of Finland and Sweden which exploit the Baltic Sea cod stock all of the countries have experienced decreased catches over this period. These decreased catches have been recorded in both major fishing areas where cod is caught, the Northwest Atlantic and Northeast Atlantic. Indeed, severe restrictions have been placed on catches in the Northwest Atlantic due to the state of the stocks.

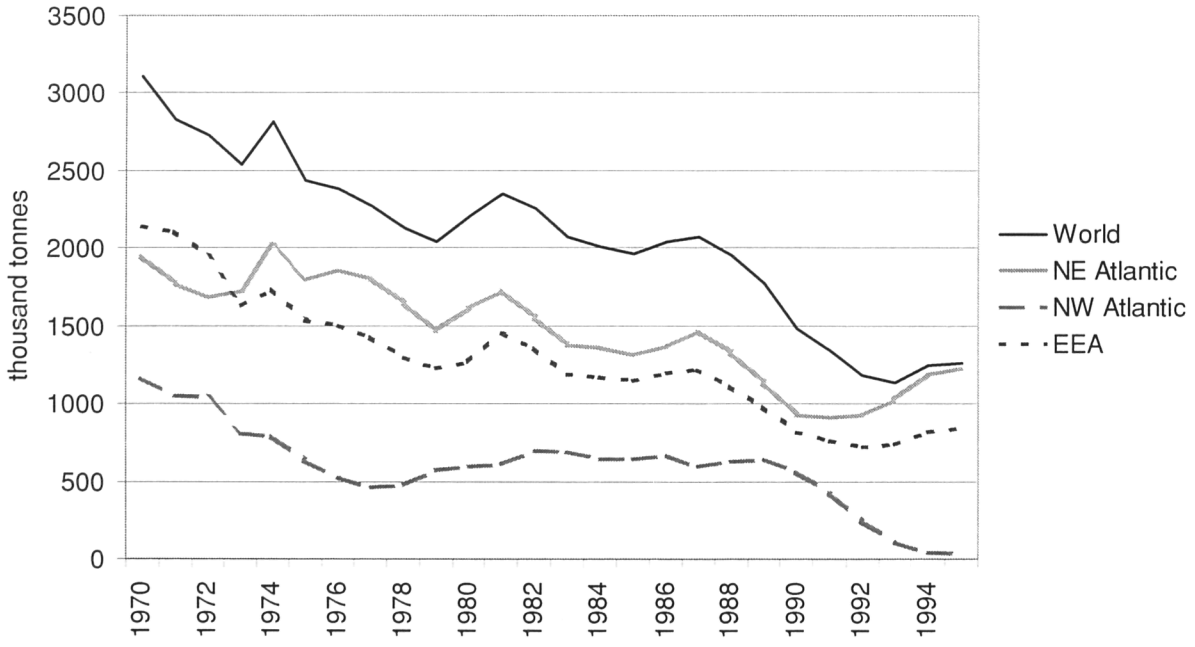
Catches of Atlantic cod

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	12 200	5 938
DK	96 800	78 333
D	233 800	31 892
E	268 100	9 563
F	140 900	14 413
IRL	3 200	5 650
NL	25 300	11 189
P	162 700	7 323
FIN	100	1 861
S	22 800	33 186
UK	414 500	78 650
EUR 15	1 380 400	277 998
ISL	308 300	202 933
NOR	457 600	368 310
EEA	2 146 300	849 241
ex-USSR	448 400	308 319
World	3 106 400	1 264 105

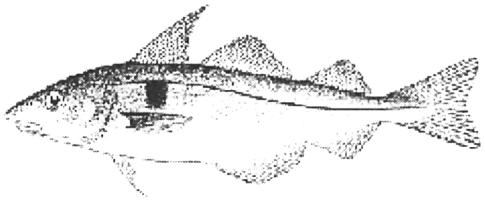
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of Atlantic cod: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Haddock



Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) is a member of the codfish family caught in waters of the North Atlantic. It is a bottom-living species which feeds on molluscs, crustaceans and young fish.

Total catch of haddock by EEA countries in 1995 was 247 thousand tonnes, with UK (86 thousand tonnes), Norway (82 thousand tonnes) and Iceland (60 thousand tonnes) making the major contributions. This is only half of the catch in 1970. All EU countries, except Spain and Portugal, have recorded decreases in their catches with Denmark experiencing the most extreme, from 159 thousand tonnes in 1970 to 4 thousand tonnes in 1995. On the other hand Iceland and Norway have about doubled their catch in this period. The EEA has been responsible for an average of 69% of total haddock catches.

The total catches of haddock have decreased by 65% from 914 thousand tonnes in 1970 to 320 thousand tonnes in 1995. While the long-term trend has been for a decline in catches there have been fluctuations about this trend with minor peaks in catches in 1973, 1982 and 1986.

In the period 1970-95, 90% of the haddock catches have been taken in the Northeast Atlantic.

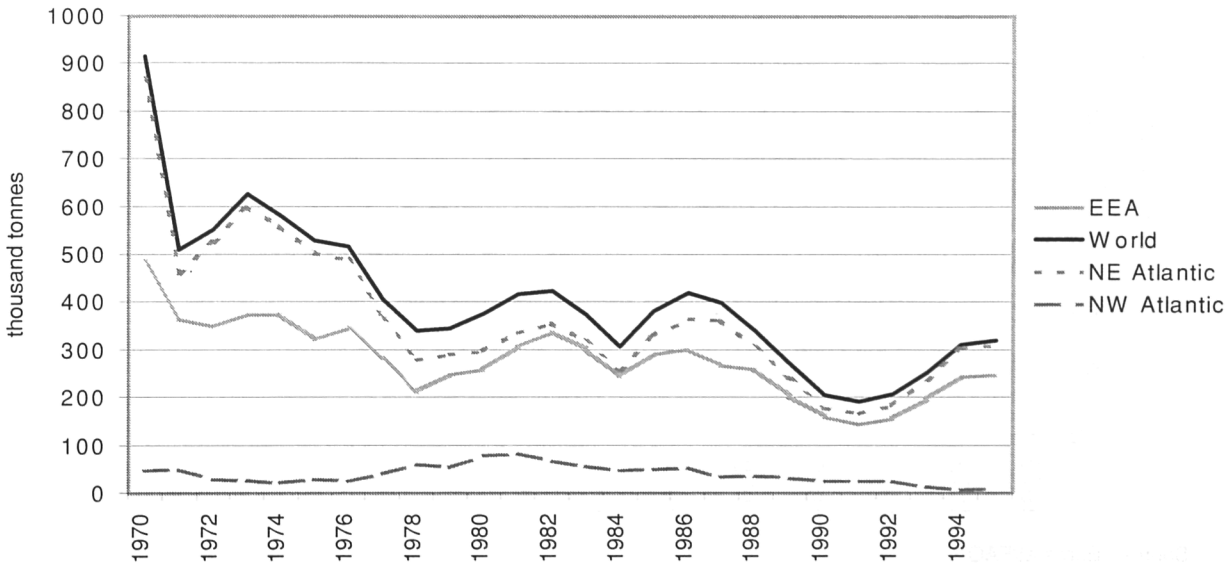
Catches of haddock

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	4 900	648
DK	159 100	4 480
D	9 700	3 978
E	0	180
F	18 200	3 614
IRL	3 600	3 417
NL	8 500	146
P	0	605
S	8 700	1 265
UK	201 600	86 315
EUR 15	421 000	104 650
ISL	31 800	60 125
NOR	38 500	82 038
EEA	491 300	246 811
ex-USSR	369 500	54 516
World	914 300	319 545

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of haddock: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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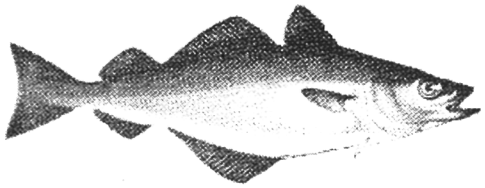
Saithe



The saithe or pollock (*Pollachius virens*) is a popular food fish in Western Europe being sold fresh, salted, dried or as frozen fillets. It is caught in the Northeast Atlantic and to a lesser extent in the Northwest Atlantic. It is largely a pelagic fish feeding on herring, sprats and young fish.

In 1995 the EEA catch was 323 thousand tonnes, 68% of which was by the Norwegian fleet. The EEA was responsible for 87% of the total catch of the species. The 1995 catch was a big decrease on the 1970 total catch of 642 thousand tonnes. Again, in 1970, the EEA was responsible for the major part of the catch (79%). Within the EEA the catches were more evenly spread with Norway, Germany, France and the UK making significant catches.

Throughout the period 1970-1995 around 90% of the catch was taken in the Northeast Atlantic.

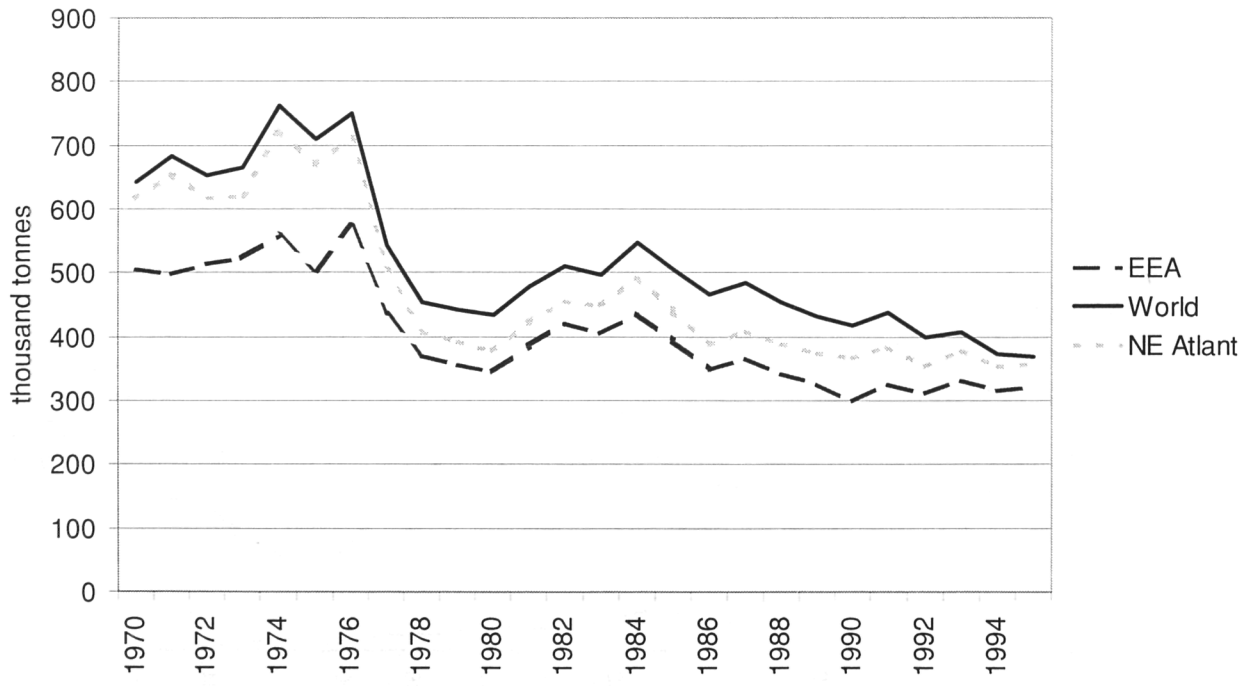
Catches of saithe

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	4 300	236
DK	17 600	4 395
D	105 200	13 393
E	1 100	550
F	68 700	16 779
IRL	1 100	2 929
NL	21 000	9
P	0	5
S	1 900	1 998
UK	58 200	15 220
EUR 15	279 100	55 514
ISL	63 900	47 466
NOR	164 500	219 565
EEA	507 500	322 545
World	641 700	369 901

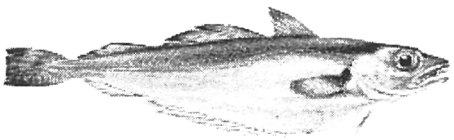
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of saithe: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Whiting



The whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) is a fish found in largely coastal waters of the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean. It is sold mostly as fresh fish, though smaller quantities are used for conserves. Young whiting are also caught with other small fish in industrial fisheries for the production of fish meal. In many fisheries whiting is not a target species but is caught while fishing for other demersal species (eg cod and haddock), albeit sometimes as a major component of the catch.

EEA countries reported catches of 85 thousand tonnes in 1995, with the United Kingdom being responsible for nearly half of this. This is a big reduction from the 212 thousand tonnes recorded in 1970. The major cause of the decrease was the big drop in Danish catches from 117 thousand tonnes in 1970 to less than 1000 tonnes in 1995.

Although there has been a general trend of decreasing catches over the period 1970-1995 there have been great fluctuations in the catch from year to year with the highest catch (284 thousand tonnes) being recorded in 1976. The EEA was responsible for the major part (an average of 89%) of the total catch during this period.

All of the EEA's catch of whiting was taken in the Northeast Atlantic in the period 1970-1995. Whiting is also caught by coastal states in the Eastern Mediterranean but this made up only 9% on average of the total catch in the same period.

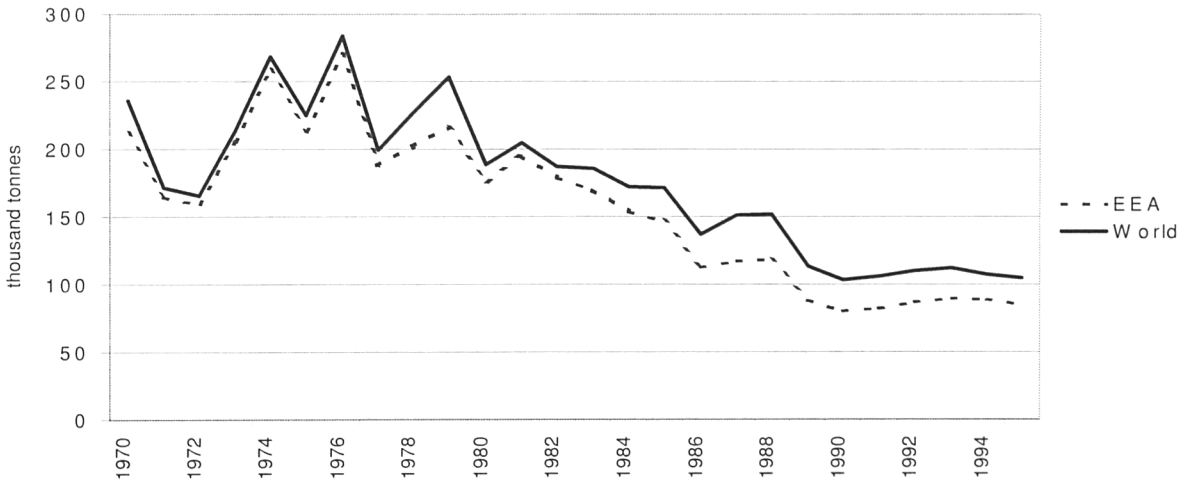
Catches of whiting

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	4 100	1 250
DK	116 700	789
D	400	1 186
E	0	400
F	40 400	24 485
IRL	4 400	11 262
NL	10 200	3 640
P	0	169
S	800	670
UK	34 900	40 383
EUR 15	211 900	84 234
ISL	200	560
NOR	100	334
EEA	212 200	85 128
World	236 000	104 810

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of whiting: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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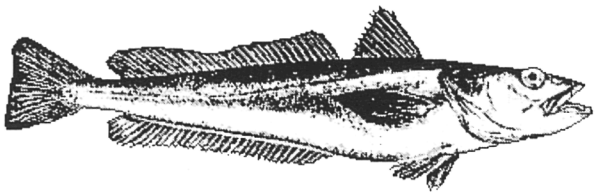
European hake



The European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) is a highly prized food fish caught in the Northeast Atlantic, Eastern Central Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Related species are caught in other regions of the world and are often substitute products on the market.

In 1995 the EEA catch of European hake was 108 thousand tonnes, with Italy and Spain contributing the major part (38 thousand tonnes each). The EEA was responsible for all but about 10 thousand tonnes of the world catch of this species.

Although the 1995 EEA catch was a reduction of nearly 20% on that for 1970, catches have varied greatly between 140 and 80 thousand tonnes in that period with no obvious trend. However this general summary masks an interesting development. In fact there is an indication of a general trend of decreased catches in the NE Atlantic but this has largely been compensated for by increased catches in the Mediterranean and, to a lesser extent, the Eastern Central Atlantic. In 1970, 84% of the European hake was caught in the NE Atlantic with only 13% in the Mediterranean. In 1995 almost equal quantities were caught in the two regions (42% in the NE Atlantic against 46% in the Mediterranean). Although less significant than for the Mediterranean, catches in the Eastern Central Atlantic increased from 4% of the total in 1970 to 12% in 1995.

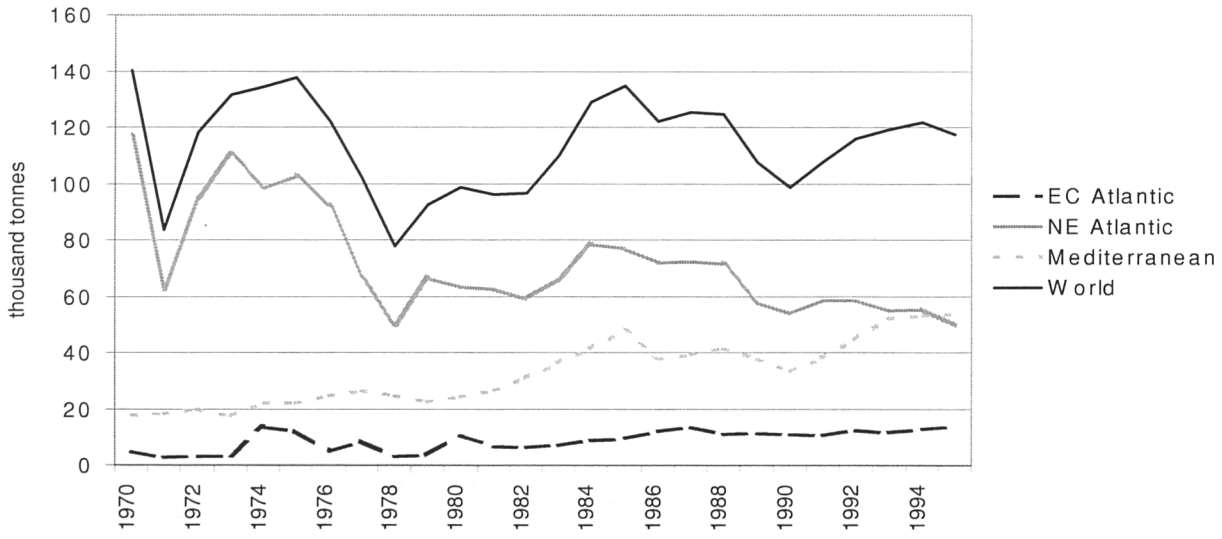
Catches of European hake

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	200	76
DK	900	1 487
D	200	110
EL	975	5 454
E	80 700	38 000
F	26 100	12 338
IRL	100	2 186
I	10 300	38 051
NL	100	78
P	9 300	3 466
S	400	69
UK	3 300	5 614
EUR 15	132 575	106 929
NOR	800	783
EEA	133 375	107 712
World	140 075	117 566

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of European hake: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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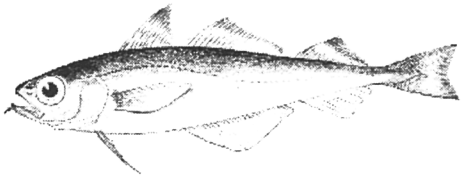
Norway pout



Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*) is a small fish, reaching a maximum of 25 cm in length, of the cod family, a fishery for which has developed around the North Sea and the northern coast of the United Kingdom. This fish has assumed a considerable importance in the production of fish meal.

The EEA catch in 1995 was 381 thousand tonnes with Denmark (263 thousand tonnes) and Norway (118 thousand tonnes) being the major contributors to the total. The EEA accounted for 98% of the world catch of the species.

In the period 1970-1995 catches of Norway pout have fluctuated with frequently considerable variations from year to year. In 1974 the catch was the maximum recorded at 878 thousand tonnes. The year previously and the year after the total catch was 503 thousand tonnes and 694 thousand tonnes respectively.
Norway pout is only caught in the NE Atlantic.

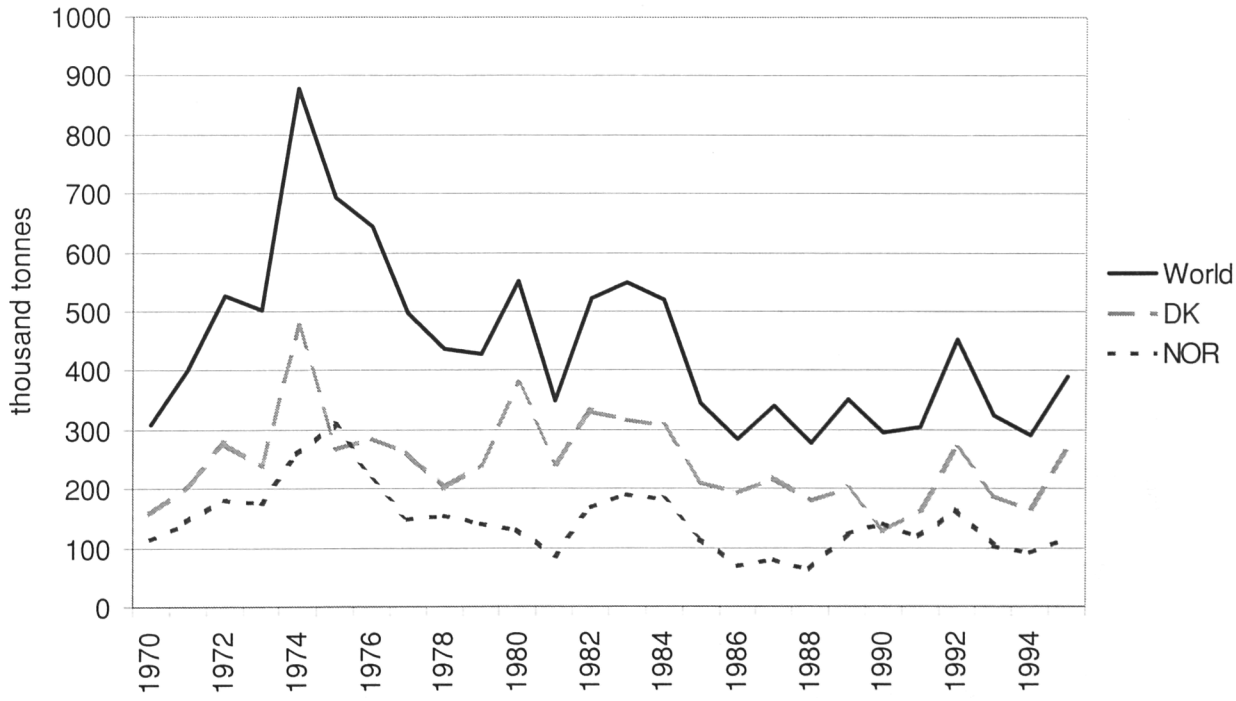
Catches of Norway pout

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
DK	157 500	262 543
D	0	38
NL	0	138
S	0	68
UK	200	0
EUR15	157 700	262 787
ISL	2 900	0
NOR	115 800	118 081
EEA	276 400	380 868
FRO	32 000	8 960
World	308 400	389 828

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of Norway pout: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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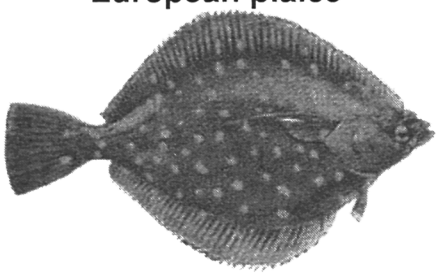
European plaice



European plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) is an important food fish caught in the Northeast Atlantic and to a very limited extent in the western Mediterranean Sea.

In 1995 the EEA catch was 131 thousand tonnes, 96% of the total catch. Of the EEA catch the major contributions were made by the Netherlands (34%), the United Kingdom (22%) and Denmark (18%).

The 1995 EEA catch was 44 thousand tonnes less than that in 1970. It is noticeable that while most countries had very similar catches in both years, the major cause of the reduction was decreases of 28 000 and 21 000 tonnes in Denmark and the United Kingdom respectively. Catches between 1970 and 1995 have varied between 204 000 and 134 000 tonnes with peaks in 1971, 1977, 1985 and 1990 and troughs in 1975, 1981, 1986. The catch in 1995 is close to the minimum value recorded in the period.

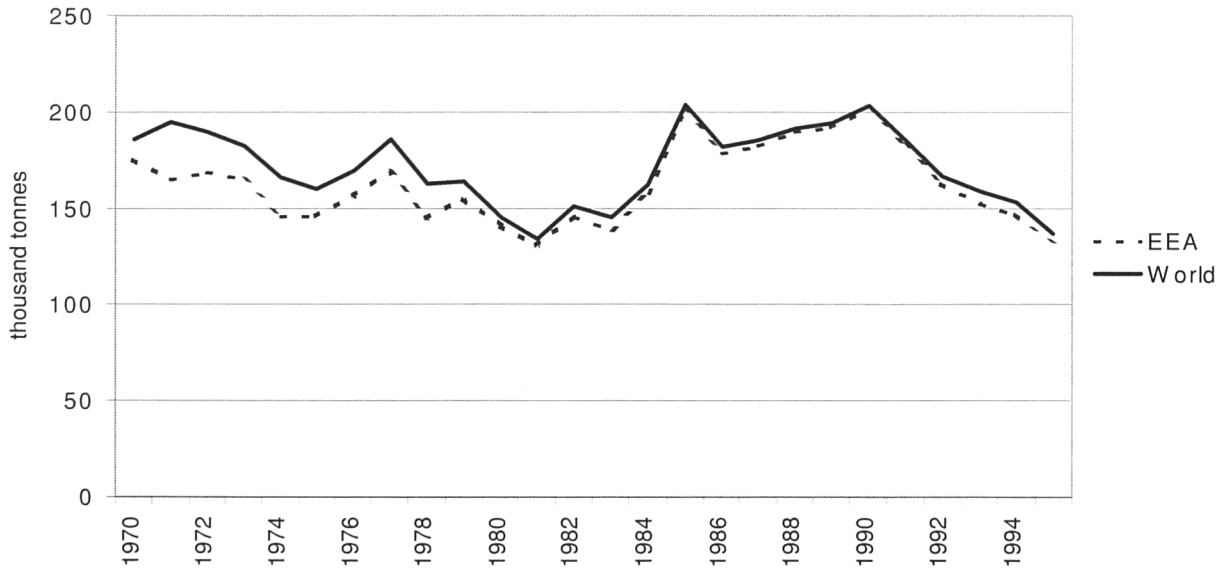
Catches of European plaice

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	5 400	9 290
DK	51 800	24 092
D	5 900	6 533
E	0	90
F	4 900	3 905
IRL	1 700	1 590
NL	46 100	44 262
P	0	147
S	700	511
UK	49 700	29 194
EUR 15	167 000	120 780
ISL	8 100	10 649
NOR	800	1 166
EEA	175 100	131 429
World	185 900	136 966

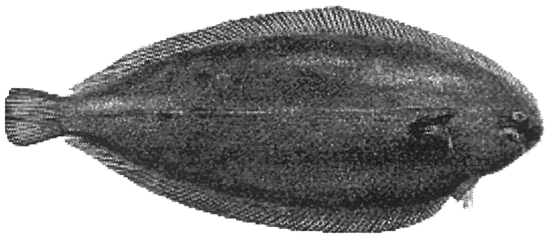
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of European plaice: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Common sole



The common sole (*Solea vulgaris*) is a valuable food fish found in relatively shallow waters of the Notheast Atlantic, Eastern Central Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea.

In 1995 the EEA catch was 53 thousand tonnes. All EEA countries, except Iceland and Norway, have fisheries for this species but the catches by the Netherlands are more than twice those reported by any other country. The EEA catch was 94% of the total catch.

The 1995 EEA catch was 52% greater than that for 1970 with most countries contributing to this increase. The general trend has been for increased catches with the maximum catch, of 65 thousand tonnes, being recorded in 1994.

The major catches of common sole are taken from the Northeast Atlantic. In 1995 the Northeast Atlantic was responsible for 79% of the total catch, the Mediterranean 16% and the Eastern Central Atlantic 5%. This position has not changed greatly since 1970.

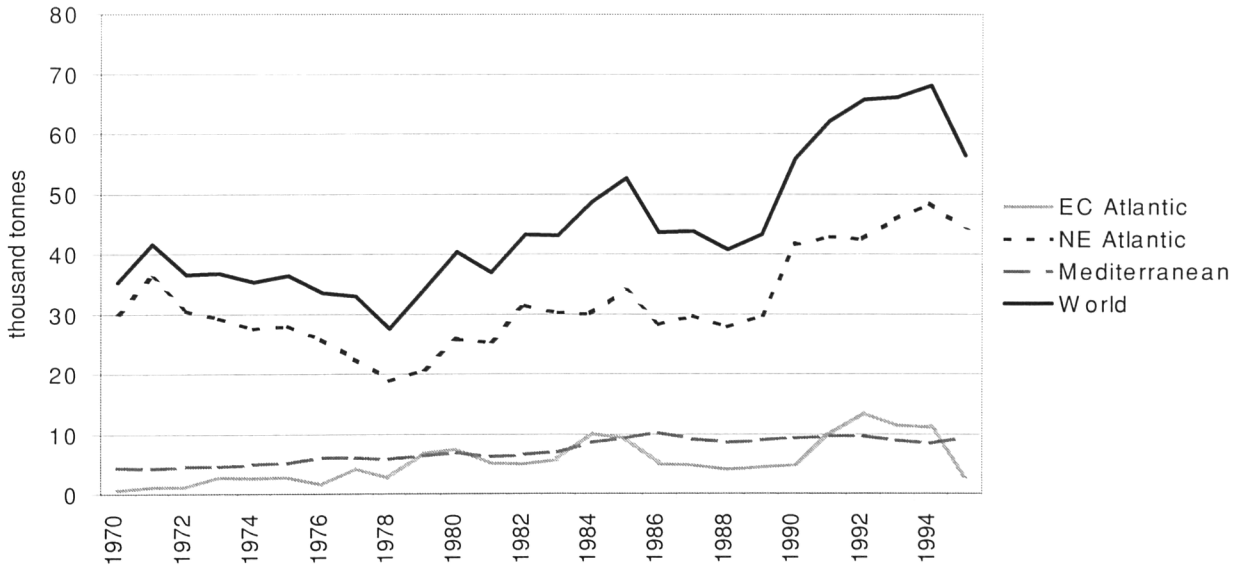
Catches of common sole

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	4 200	5 457
DK	700	3 039
D	300	1 569
E	2 700	1 900
F	4 300	8 306
EL	1 000	1 453
IRL	200	561
I	3 000	6 065
NL	16 300	20 927
P	800	240
S	0	89
UK	1 400	3 530
EUR 15	34 900	53 136
EEA	34 900	53 136
World	35 400	56 398

Source: Eurostat/FAO

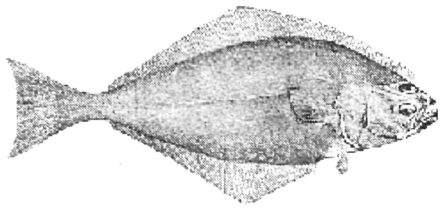
Catches of common sole: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

eurostat

Atlantic halibut



The Atlantic halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*) is the largest of the flatfishes reaching a length of 3.6 metres and a weight of 260 kg. It is found in the more northern waters of the North Atlantic, often at depths as great as 2000 m. It is the basis of long-standing fisheries both using long lines and trawls.

The EEA catch of Atlantic halibut in 1995 was just over 2 thousand tonnes with 69% of this being due to Iceland and Norway. Although catches were reported by most of the other EEA countries, only the United Kingdom caught significant quantities (405 tonnes or 19% of the EEA total). Not surprisingly for a species much of whose distribution is outside of the economic zones of EEA countries, the EEA catch was only 57% of the total catch. Canada and the Faroe Islands are the other major catching countries.

Apart from an increase catches in the mid-1980's, there has been a general downward trend to catches in the period 1970-1995. The larger proportion of halibut have been taken in the Northeast Atlantic, with a downward trend of catches in the 1970's being followed by relatively steady catches. In the Northwest Atlantic, from a steady rate of catches of about 2 200 tonnes a year catches rose in the late 1970's to reach a maximum of 4 700 tonnes in 1985. However they have declined subsequently to a little under 1 000 tonnes in 1995

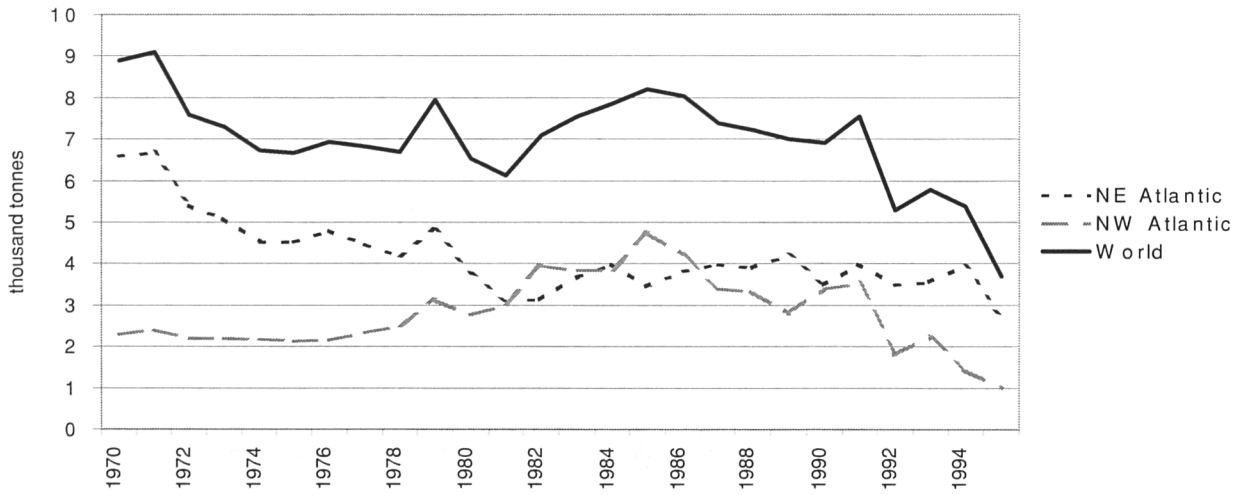
Catches of Atlantic halibut

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	100	15
DK	100	61
D	500	30
E	0	68
F	0	27
IRL	0	6
NL	0	5
P	0	17
S	0	13
UK	1500	405
EUR 15	2 200	647
ISL	1 100	888
NOR	2 800	551
EEA	6 100	2 086
FRO	600	654
CAN	2 100	867
World	8 900	3 684

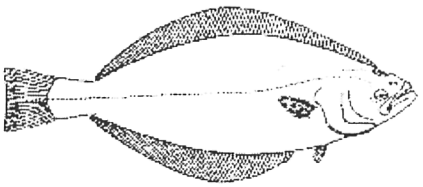
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of Atlantic halibut: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Greenland halibut



The Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) is an arctic flatfish found in waters of between 200-2000 metres in depth in the North Atlantic. A sub-species is found in North Pacific. The fishery for Greenland halibut in international waters of the Northwest Atlantic was the cause of a dispute between the EU and Canada in the early 1990's

In 1995 the EEA catch was 57 thousand tonnes with Iceland (27 thousand tonnes), Norway (14 thousand tonnes) and Spain (9 thousand tonnes) making the major contributions to the total. While Iceland and Norway's catches were largely taken in waters adjacent to their coasts, the Spanish catches were exclusively from the Northwest Atlantic.

Comparing the EEA catches in 1970 with those in 1995 one sees that there has been a reduction of about 14 thousand tonnes. This is largely accounted for by a decrease of 46 thousand tonnes by Germany and increases of 20 thousand and 9 thousand tonnes by Iceland and Spain respectively.

In the Northeast Atlantic catches fell throughout the 1970s, increased in the 1980s but have subsequently fallen back again. In the Northwest Atlantic catches remained relatively stable until the early 1990's at between 40 and 60 thousand tonnes per year. They then increased rapidly to reach 96 thousand tonnes in 1992 but, due to management measures, have decreased to 43 thousand tonnes in 1995.

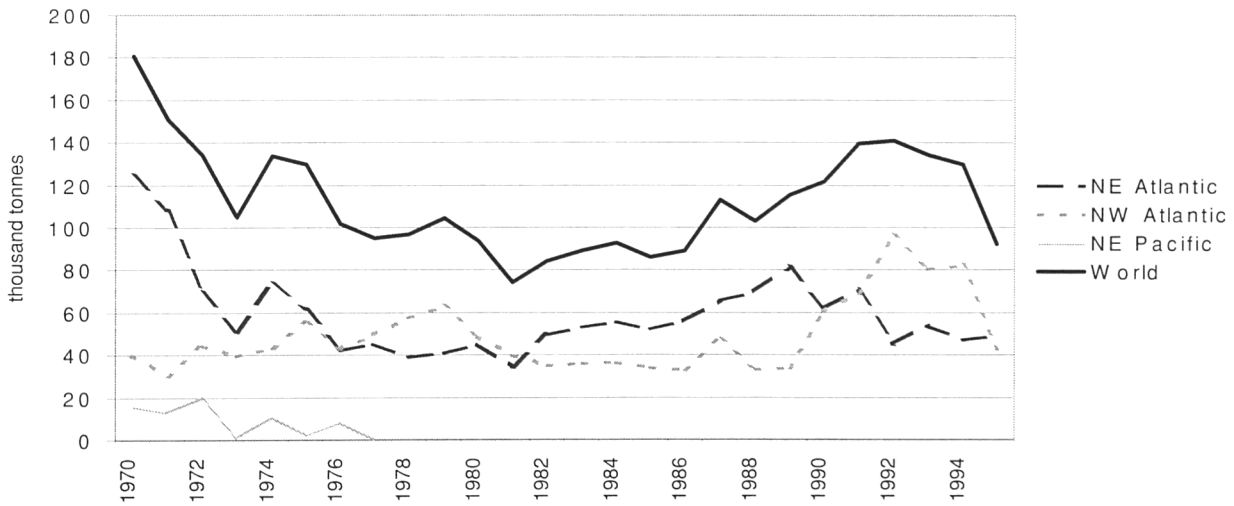
Catches of Greenland halibut

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
DK	0	1
D	46 900	848
E	0	9 135
F	0	492
IRL	0	2
P	0	2 020
UK	0	2 890
EUR 15	46 900	15 388
ISL	7 300	27 408
NOR	16 900	14 100
EEA	71 100	56 896
POL	29 400	0
GRL	1 200	18 417
CAN	62 600	10 775
World	180 000	92 149

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of Greenland halibut: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

eurostat

Sandeels

Sandeels (*Ammodytes* spp.) are small fish found, often in high concentrations, in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. The major fishery for sandeels is in the Northeast Atlantic where they are used almost exclusively for the production of fish meal and oil.

The EEA catch of sandeels in 1995 was 1.1 million tonnes with only Denmark (844 thousand tonnes) and Norway (263 thousand tonnes) making significant contributions to the total. Sandeels accounted for 42% of Denmark's catches of fishery products in 1995. Sandeel catches are very much concentrated in the EEA which was responsible for 99% of the total catch.

The 1995 catch was a nearly six times the catch in 1970. From 1970 there has been a general trend of greatly increased catches though, not surprisingly for a species with a relatively short life history, there have been considerable variations from year to year.

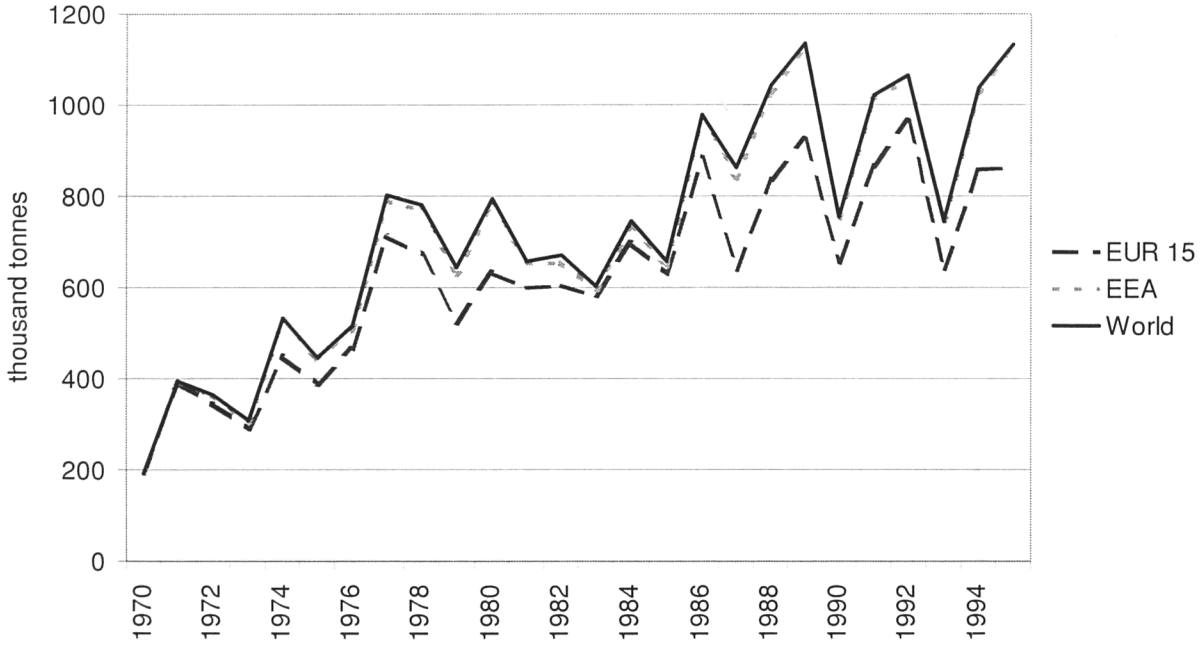
Catches of sandeels

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
DK	191 000	844 512
F	0	115
P	0	64
S	0	40
UK	0	17 528
EUR 15	191 000	862 259
NOR	600	263 490
EEA	191 600	1 125 749
World	191 600	1 133 235

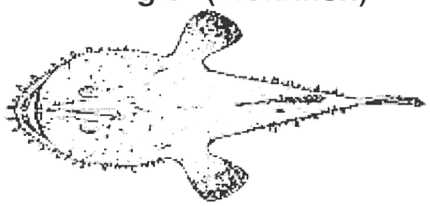
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of sandeels: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Angler (Monkfish)



The angler or monkfish (*Lophius piscatorius*) is a bottom living fish which attracts its prey by means of a "lure", an elongated first ray of the dorsal fin. The pancreas of this fish is the original source of insulin used in the treatment of diabetes.

In 1995 the EEA catch 55 thousand tonnes with the UK (24 thousand tonnes, 44%) and France (15 thousand tonnes, 27%) making the major contributions to the total. The EEA accounted for 97% of the total catch of this species. The catches were very much concentrated in the Northeast Atlantic (97% of the total). Small quantities were caught in the Eastern Central Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Fisheries exist for related species in other regions of the Atlantic and in the Pacific Ocean.

The 1995 EEA catch was a little over 20 thousand tonnes greater than that for 1970. This increase was due almost exclusively to increased catches by the United Kingdom. The general trend in the period 1970-1995 has been for increased catches though there was a period in the mid-1980's with exceptionally high catches.

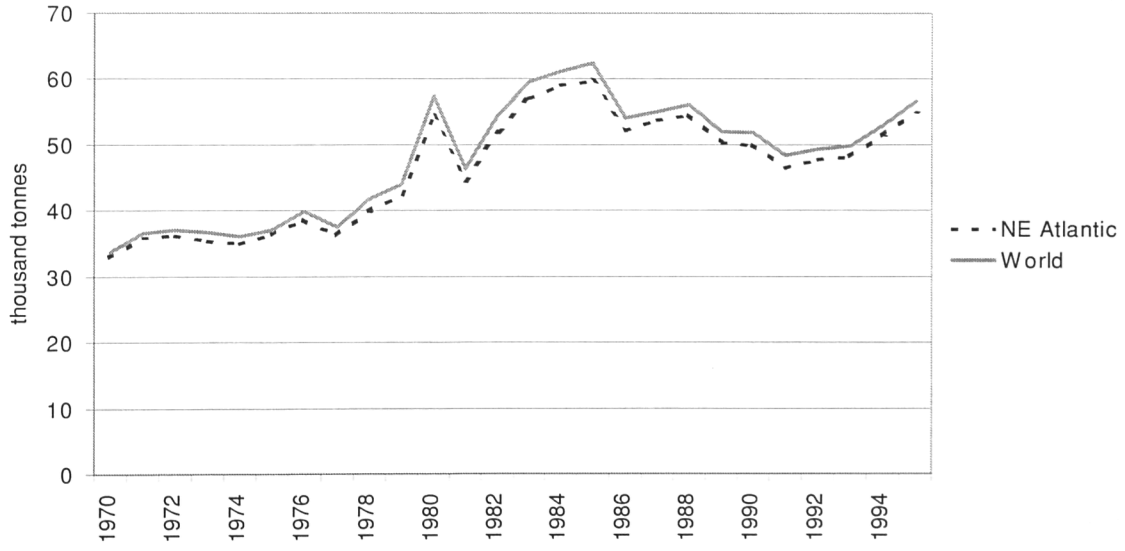
Catches of anglers

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	900	1 772
DK	200	1 350
D	100	893
E	14 000	5 800
F	13 400	14 860
IRL	0	2 929
NL	0	362
P	400	186
S	100	55
UK	3 700	24 456
EUR 15	32 800	52 663
ISL	600	552
NOR	300	1 731
EEA	33 700	54 946
World	33 700	56 531

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of anglers: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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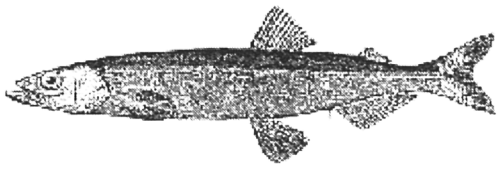
Capelin



The capelin (*Mallotus villosus*) is a small salmonid that forms large pelagic shoals that are the basis of an intense fishery in the northern waters of the North Atlantic . It is used almost exclusively for reduction to meal and oil. It is an major prey species of such important food fish as the cod.

In 1995 the EEA catch was 743 thousand tonnes. Only Iceland (716 thousand tonnes, 96%) and Norway (28 thousand tonnes) were involved in this fishery.

This was only half the catch recorded in 1970. Between 1970 and 1977 the catches increased rapidly, reaching a maximum of 4 million tonnes with Norway (2.1 million tonnes), the USSR (1 million tonnes) and Iceland (0.9 million tonnes) being the major countries in the fisheries. From 1977 the catches decreased with a similar rapidity and, as a management measure to protect a seriously depleted stock, a ban of fishing for capelin in the Barents Sea, a major area for the species, was enforced from 1986-1989. The fishery was reopened between 1990 and 1993 but catches did not attain their earlier level. The USSR which was active in the fisheries for this species from 1973-1985 now has very limited catches.

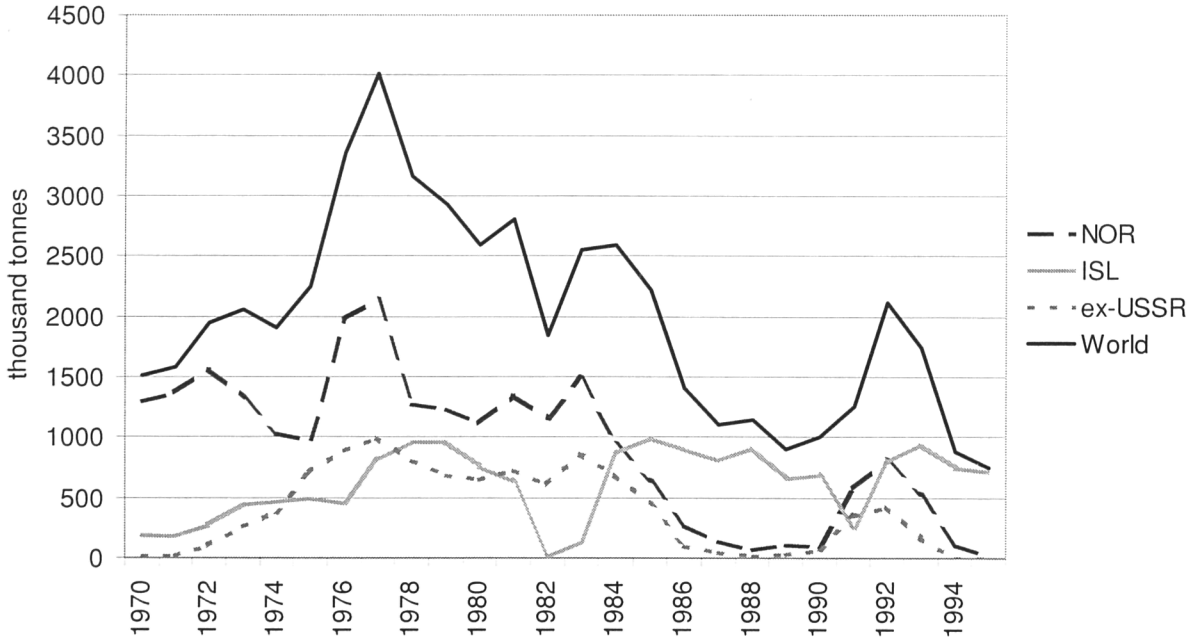
Catches of capelin

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
EUR 15	0	0
ISL	191 800	715 551
NOR	1 301 000	27 740
EEA	1 492 800	743 291
World	1 514 700	748 796

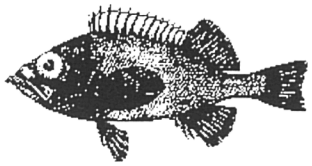
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of capelin: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Atlantic redfishes



Atlantic redfishes (several species of the genus *Sebastes*) are slow growing fish which only become mature at about 11 years of age. They are believed to live for in excess of 50 years. They are found in the more northern waters of the North Atlantic, both in coastal waters and at depths to 400 metres.

In 1995 the EEA catch was 176 thousand tonnes with Iceland (118 thousand tonnes, 67%), Norway (23 thousand tonnes, 13%) and Germany (20 thousand tonnes, 12%) as the leading fishing nations. The EEA was only responsible for 54% of the total catch of these species: the republics of the former USSR caught a further 31%.

In 1970 the world catch of Atlantic redfish was 363 thousand tonnes, little different from that of 1995. In fact for most of the period 1970-1995 the catch was in the order of 400 thousand tonnes. The exception was in 1974-1978 when there was an increase in catches in the Northeast Atlantic to record a maximum total catch of 687 thousand tonnes in 1976.

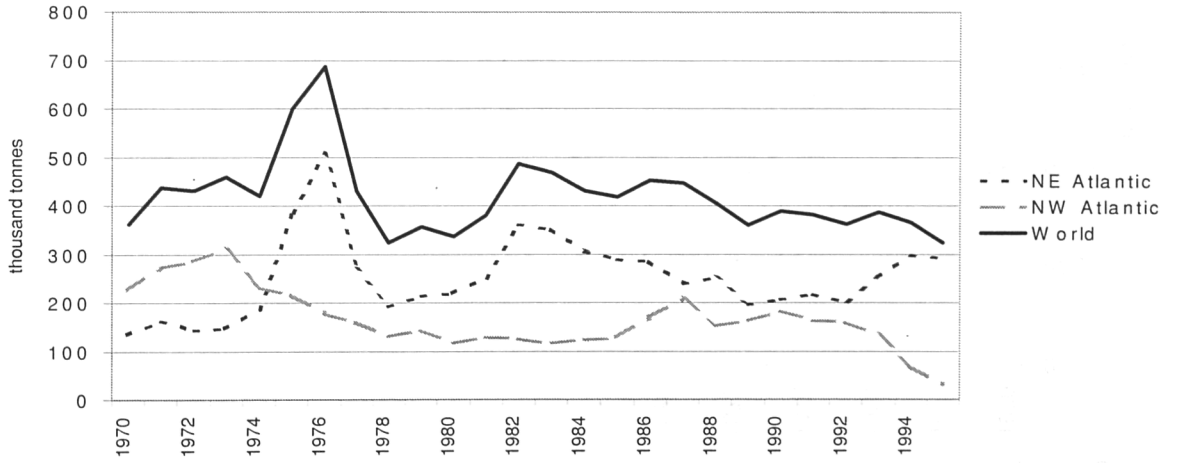
Fisheries exist for Atlantic redfishes in both the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic with, for the period 1970-95, an average of 60% being caught in the Northeast Atlantic. A recent decline in catches in the Northwest Atlantic has been compensated for by an increase in catches in the Northeast Atlantic.

Catches of Atlantic redfishes

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	2 200	16
DK	0	15
D	88 900	20 472
E	0	658
F	0	2 520
IRL	0	18
NL	0	29
P	0	9 355
S	0	1
UK	7 600	1 346
EUR 15	98 700	34 430
ISL	24 800	117 750
NOR	4 100	22 532
EEA	127 600	175 712
CAN	106 900	17 842
ex-USSR	89 100	102 689
World	362 700	323 542

Source: Eurostat/FAO

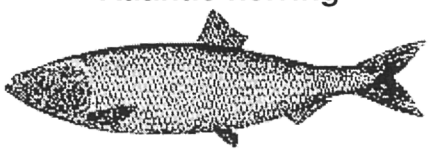


Catches of Atlantic redfishes: 1970-95

Source: Eurostat/FAO

eurostat

Atlantic herring



The Atlantic herring (*Clupea herangus*) is one of the most important of food fish in Western Europe and is the subject of traditional fisheries in such areas as the North Sea.

In 1995 the EEA total catch of herring was 1 739 thousand tonnes with the northern countries, Norway (688 thousand tonnes), Iceland (284 thousand tonnes), Denmark (191 thousand tonnes) and Sweden (157 thousand tonnes) to the fore.

These catches are approximately the same as those for 1970. However, between the two years there was a serious decline in total catches to a minimum of 888 thousand tonnes in 1979 (due to the poor state of the North Sea herring stock and the resultant closure of the fishery for several years) followed by a recovery.

Herring are fished in two main areas, the Northeast Atlantic and the Northwest Atlantic. The fishery in the NW Atlantic is of minor importance to the EEA, Canada being the main catching nation. The NE Atlantic catch is much larger than that of the NW Atlantic and, in 1995, the EEA was responsible for catches of 1739 thousand tonnes of the total 2054 thousand tonnes (85%) in the region.

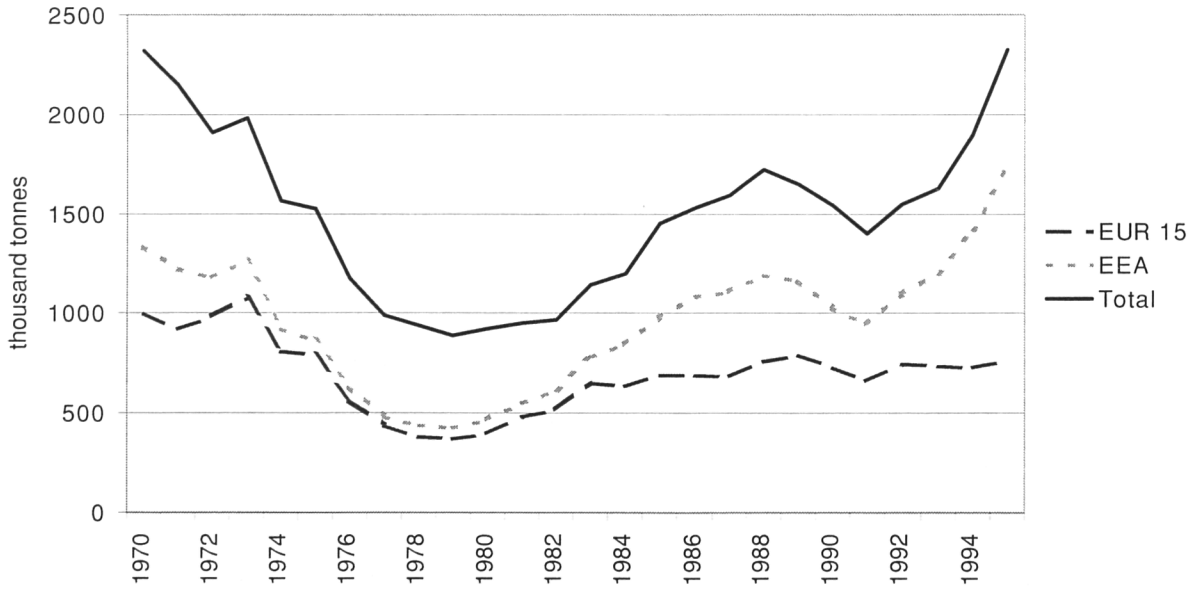
Catches of Atlantic herring

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	800	12
DK	254 000	191 415
D	249 100	55 916
E	0	0
F	24 400	4 501
IRL	42 700	46 643
NL	58 400	99 447
FIN	51 900	95 897
S	173 600	157 503
UK	145 600	114 571
EUR 15	1 000 500	765 905
ISL	51 400	284 473
NOR	285 100	688 255
EEA	1 337 000	1 738 633
World	2 320 400	2 325 781

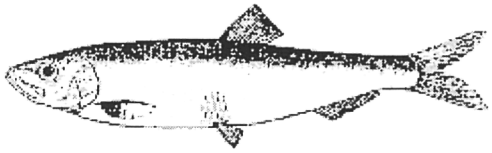
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of Atlantic herring: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

European sprat



The European sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) is a pelagic fish of the herring family caught principally in the North and Baltic Seas for reduction to fish meal and oil.

EEA catches have increased five-fold in the period 1970-95, from 94 000 to 478 000 tonnes. The major catches are recorded by Denmark and Sweden, both for the most part from the Baltic Sea. The EEA catch has increased from 40% of the world total of 236 thousand tonnes in 1970 to 79% of the total 603 thousand tonnes in 1995.

However catches have fluctuated in the period from 1970-95, increasing rapidly in the earlier part of the period to a maximum of a little under 1 million tonnes in 1975, then decreasing to a little above 200 thousand tonnes in 1985 and recovering to 600 thousand tonnes on 1995.

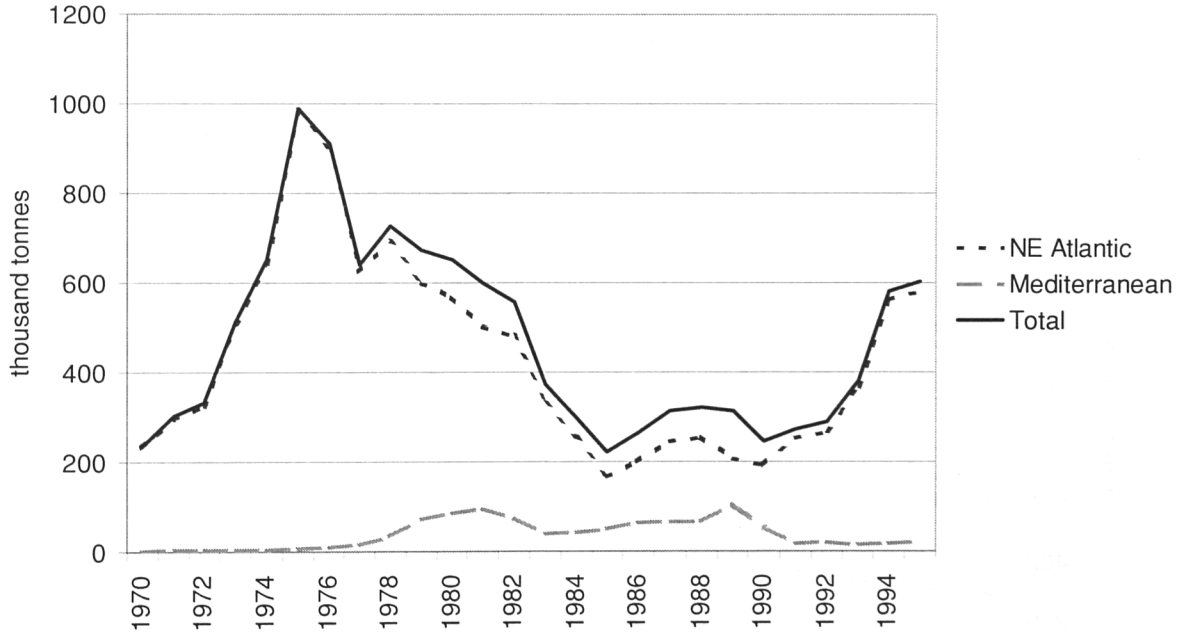
Catches of European sprat

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	600	2
DK	8 900	258 151
D	15 800	231
E	700	1 600
F	2 200	36
EL	0	178
IRL	5 500	799
NL	1 500	402
P	0	1
FI	1 300	4 104
S	5 500	165 604
UK	36 300	5 906
EUR 15	78 300	437 014
NOR	13 700	40 969
EEA	94 000	477 983
World	235 800	602 992

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of European sprat: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

eurostat

European sardine

The European sardine or pilchard (*Sardina pilchardus*) is a pelagic fish caught in the southern waters of the Northeast Atlantic, the Eastern Central Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea.

EEA catches have increased by 44% from 288 thousand tonnes in 1970 to 416 thousand tonnes in 1995. In the same period the world catch of sardine rose from 607 thousand tonnes to 1207 thousand tonnes. However, whereas the EEA increase was a relatively gradual increase, the world catch fluctuated more widely, with a maximum catch of 1 539 thousand tonnes being recorded in 1989. Morocco is the country with the largest catch, 571 thousand tonnes in 1995, 47% of the world total.

Spain and Portugal recorded the highest catches with 214 thousand tonnes (51% of the total) and 88 thousand tonnes (21%) respectively in 1995. EEA catches in the Mediterranean have relatively constant at 109 thousand tonnes over this period. The EEA incease in catches is accounted for by the fact that catches in the NE Atlantic have increased by a relatively modest 33% while those in the EC Atlantic by 208%.

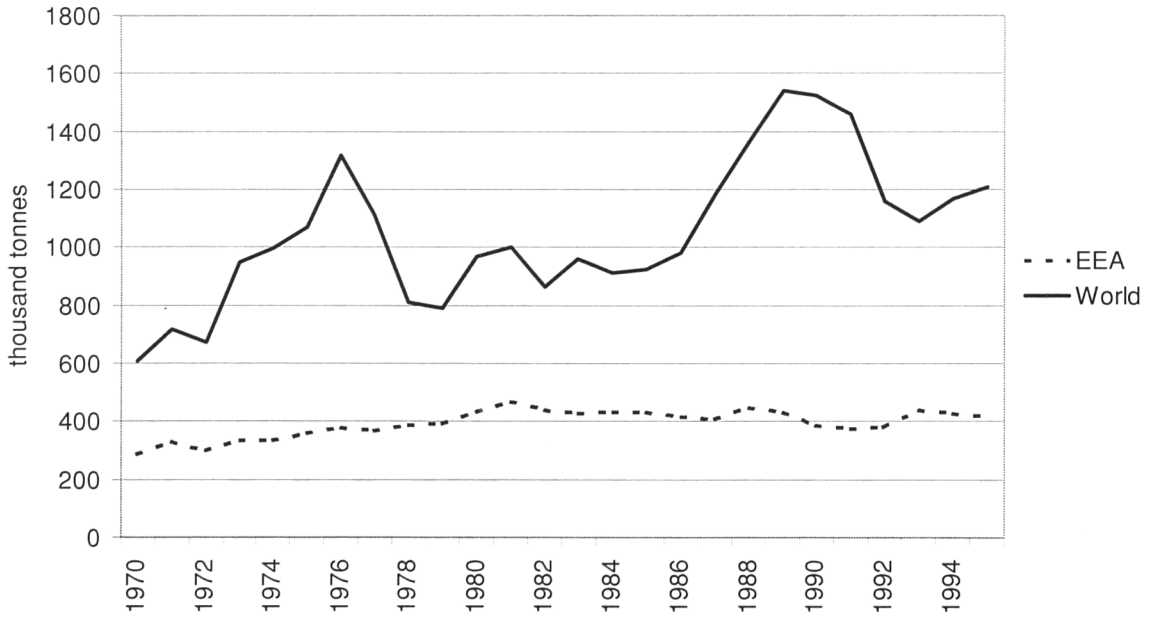
Catches of European Sardine

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1971
DK	0	36 196
D	2 100	35
E	120 200	214 000
F	41 200	13 446
EL	8 800	20 413
IRL	0	0
I	45 300	36 825
NL	100	116
P	69 200	87 711
UK	900	7 133
EUR 15	287 800	415 875
EEA	287 800	415 875
MAR	163 200	570 914
World	606 500	1 207 128
EEA catch		
EC Atlantic	38 900	120 001
NE Atlantic	140 100	186 636
Mediterranean	108 800	109 238

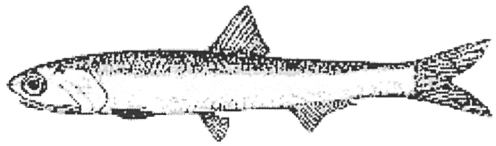
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of European sardine: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

European anchovy



The European anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) is a pelagic fish caught in the Northeast Atlantic, Eastern Central Atlantic and the Mediterranean. A large part of the catch is destined to be filletted and canned.

The EEA catches have remained relatively constant at between 80 000 tonnes and 125 000 tonnes over the period 1970-95 with Spain and Italy recording the largest catches. Italian catches are all taken in the Mediterranean. Spanish catches are distributed between the NE Atlantic (15 000 tonnes in 1995) and the Mediterranean (28 500 tonnes in 1995).

The total catch of European anchovies has fluctuated widely from a minimum of 373 000 tonnes in 1970 to a maximum of 860 000 tonnes in 1988. Turkey was responsible for the major catches: 388 000 tonnes (63% of the total) in 1995.

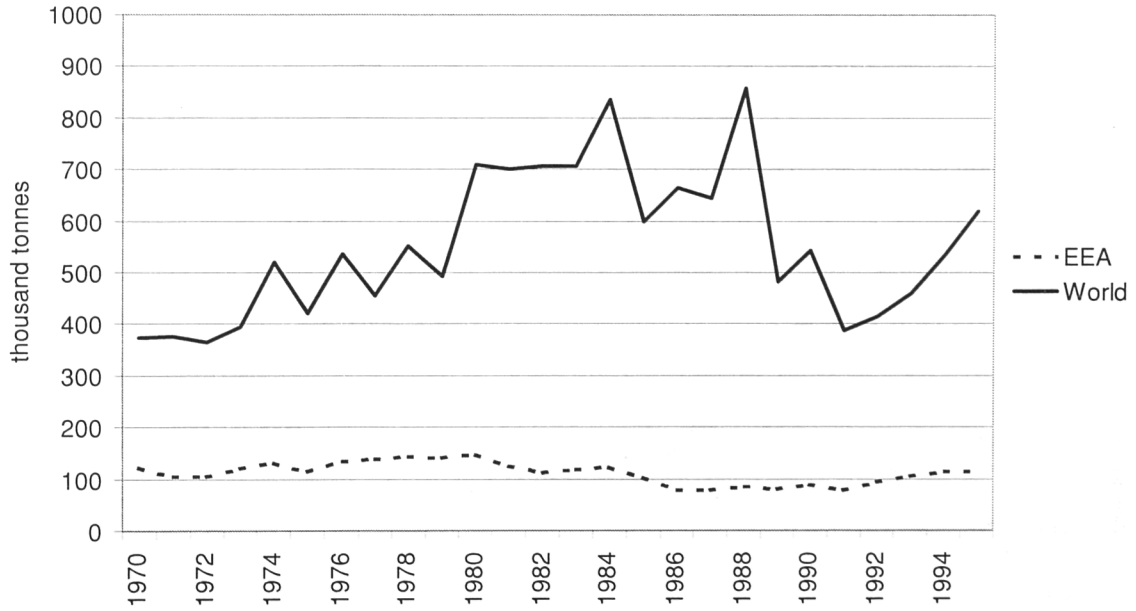
Catches of European anchovy

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
DK	0	759
E	56 100	43 500
F	6 200	11 255
EL	6 400	13 876
I	55 000	42 746
NL	0	20
P	1 200	2 530
EEA	124 900	114 686
TUR	71 600	387 574
ex-USSR	136 900	36 164
World	373 400	619 269
EEA catch		
NE Atlantic	46 800	26 564
Mediterranean	78 100	88 122

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of European anchovy: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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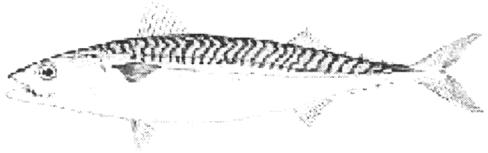
Atlantic mackerel



The Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) is a fast-swimming, pelagic, schooling species of the Northwest, Northeast and Eastern Central Atlantic and the Mediterranean. It is sold fresh, smoked or canned.

In 1995 the EEA catch was 639 thousand tonnes with the UK (218 thousand tonnes, 34%), Norway (202 thousand tonnes, 32%), and Ireland (79 thousand tonnes, 12%) being the major fishing nations. The EEA catch was 81% of the world total of this species. Other major fishing nations were the republics of the former USSR (56 thousand tonnes) and the Faroe Islands (35 thousand tonnes)

The 1995 EEA catch was 215 thousand tonnes greater than that in 1970, due largely to the UK's catch increasing from just 4 600 tonnes in 1970 to 218 thousand tonnes in 1995. There were also large increases in the catches by Ireland and the Netherlands, but significant decreases in the catches by Norway, France and Spain.

In the early 1970's the world catch of Atlantic rose rapidly to reach around 1 million tonnes per year in 1973-76. Thereafter it decreased to around 600-800 thousand tonnes per year.

Until about 1977 there was a significant fishery for Atlantic mackerel in the Northwest Atlantic (200-400 thousand tonnes per year). However this fishery is now much reduced and Northeast Atlantic has assumed the greatest importance. There is a limited fishery (8-10 thousand tonnes per year) in the Mediterranean.

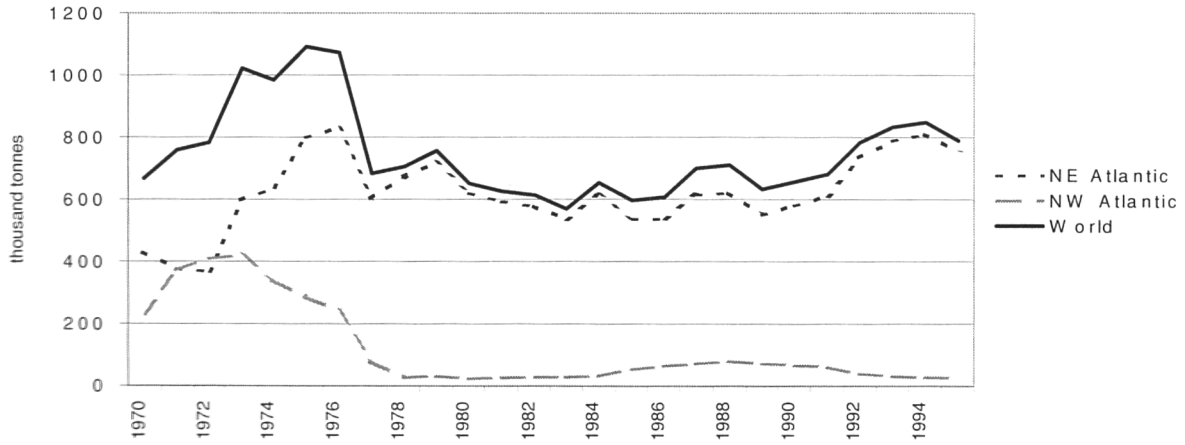
Catches of Atlantic mackerel

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	0	108
DK	26 800	36 758
D	9 200	24 417
EL	0	686
E	40 600	20 000
F	50 400	12 534
IRL	1 100	78 534
NL	6 800	35 787
P	300	3 073
S	3 400	6 268
UK	4 600	218 417
EUR 15	143 200	436 582
ISL	1 600	0
NOR	278 800	202 107
EEA	423 600	638 689
ex-USSR	142 800	56 305
FRO	2 100	34 924
World	668 700	789 733

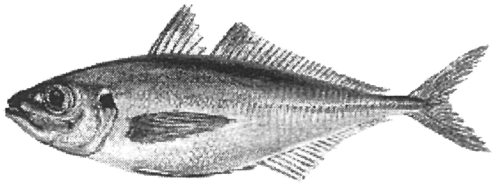
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of Atlantic mackerel: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Atlantic horse mackerel



The Atlantic horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) is a fish of very similar habits to the Atlantic mackerel. However its distribution is rather different being found along the eastern coast of the Atlantic from Norway to South Africa and in the Mediterranean.

In 1995 the EEA catch was 577 thousand tonnes. Most countries contributed to this total although Ireland, the Netherlands and Norway were the major fishing nations. The EEA was responsible for 98% of the total catch of this species (588 thousand tonnes).

In 1970 the total catch (255 thousand tonnes) was less than a half of the 1995 catch. Furthermore the EEA share of the catch was only 68%, due to the existence of a major USSR fishery which was subsequently restricted by the extension of economic zones by the coastal states of the Northeast Atlantic.

Between 1970 and 1977 catches were variable due largely to fluctuations in the USSR catch. However with the virtual exclusion of the USSR from the fishery in 1978, the catch rose rapidly from minimum of 162 thousand tonnes to reach the present level.

In the period 1970-95, 96% of Atlantic horse mackerel have been caught in the Northeast Atlantic. Minor fisheries do exist in the Eastern Central Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

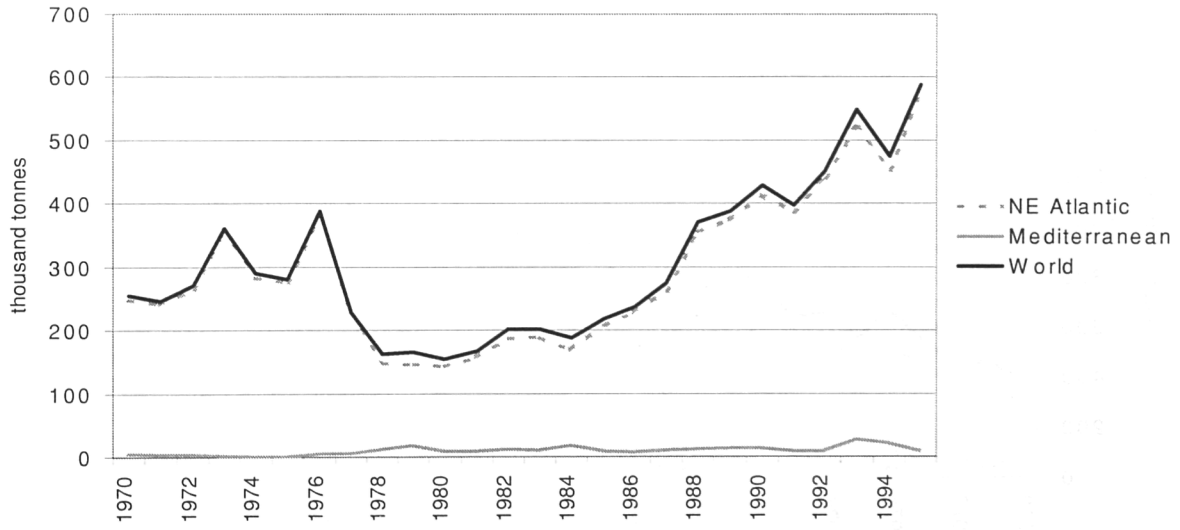
Catches of Atlantic horse mackerel

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
B	0	51
DK	0	56 167
D	1 000	20 407
EL	0	1 860
E	98 900	38 000
F	2 800	5 877
IRL	0	178 355
NL	200	113 828
P	62 800	17 703
S	0	447
UK	100	48 203
EUR 15	165 800	480 898
NOR	7 400	96 132
EEA	173 200	577 030
ex-USSR	74 900	1 947
World	255 100	588 014

Source: Eurostat/FAO

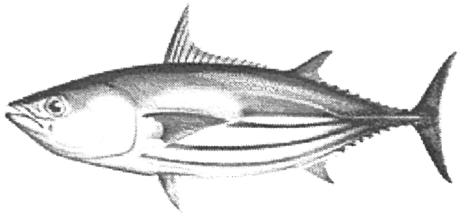
Catches of Atlantic horse mackerel: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

eurostat

Skipjack tuna



The Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) is a species found in schools in tropical and sub-tropical waters of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. It is an active predator with a wide range of prey species. It is caught almost exclusively by surface gears often using floating object to aggregate the fish.

The EEA catch of skipjack tuna in 1995 was 187 thousand tonnes. Three countries shared the catch: Spain (106 thousand tonnes), France (76 thousand tonnes) and Portugal (5 thousand tonnes). This catch was only 12% of the world total: Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan and the USA were the major fishing nations.

Catches have increased steadily from 1970 at a rate of about 46 thousand tonnes per year. All the major fishing nations shared in this increase. There are fisheries for skipjack tuna in all the world's oceans. The major part of the catch (75%) is caught in the Pacific Ocean: the other two oceans have a more or less equal share of the remainder. While all the oceans contributed to the increase in catches in the period 1970-1995 the rate of increase in the Pacific was greater than in the other two oceans. Until 1981 all the EEAs catches of skipjack tuna were taken in the Atlantic but in that year a fishery commenced in the Indian Ocean. The development of this fishery has continued and, in recent years, the Indian Ocean catches are approximately equal to those of the Atlantic Ocean.

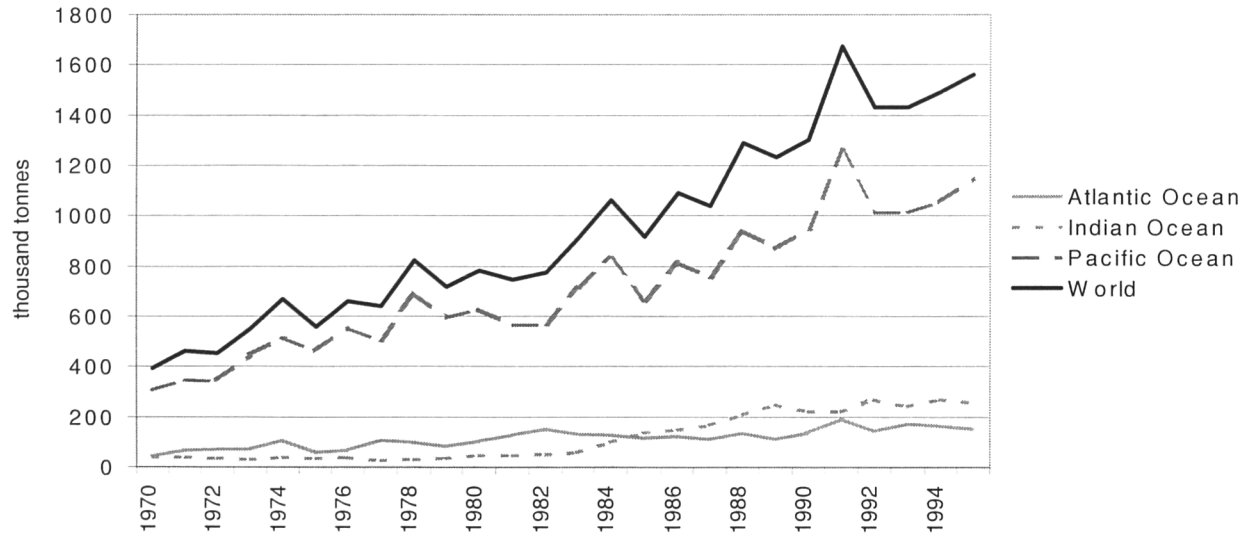
Catches of skipjack tuna

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
E	7 986	105 733
F	11 729	76 170
P	959	4 996
EUR 15	20 674	186 899
EEA	20 674	186 899
JPN	212 600	308 954
IDN	14 400	174 600
TWN	389	158 838
USA	49 100	156 289
World	373 092	1 559 650

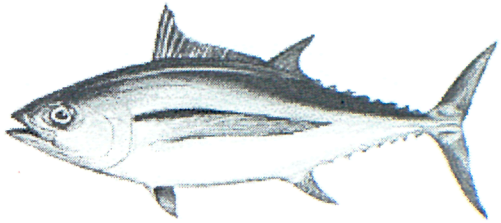
Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICCAT

Catches of skipjack tuna: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICCAT

Albacore



The albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) is a tuna species of temperate waters of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. They are caught by both surface and long-line fisheries with the older, larger fish being caught in long-line fisheries.

The EEA catch for 1995 was 35 thousand tonnes with Spain as the major fishing country. This represented 19% of the world catch of 185 thousand tonnes. Japan and Taiwan are the major fishing nations.

In the period 1970-95 the world catch has been relatively steady at 200 thousand tonnes and that of the EEA has been in the order of 40 thousand tonnes throughout the period.

On average over the period 1970-95 the Pacific Ocean was the source of the 53% of the world catch, the Atlantic Ocean 38% and the Indian Ocean 9%. Throughout the period the greater part of the EEA catch was derived from the Atlantic Ocean. The remainder, from the Indian Ocean has not contributed more than 10% to the total.

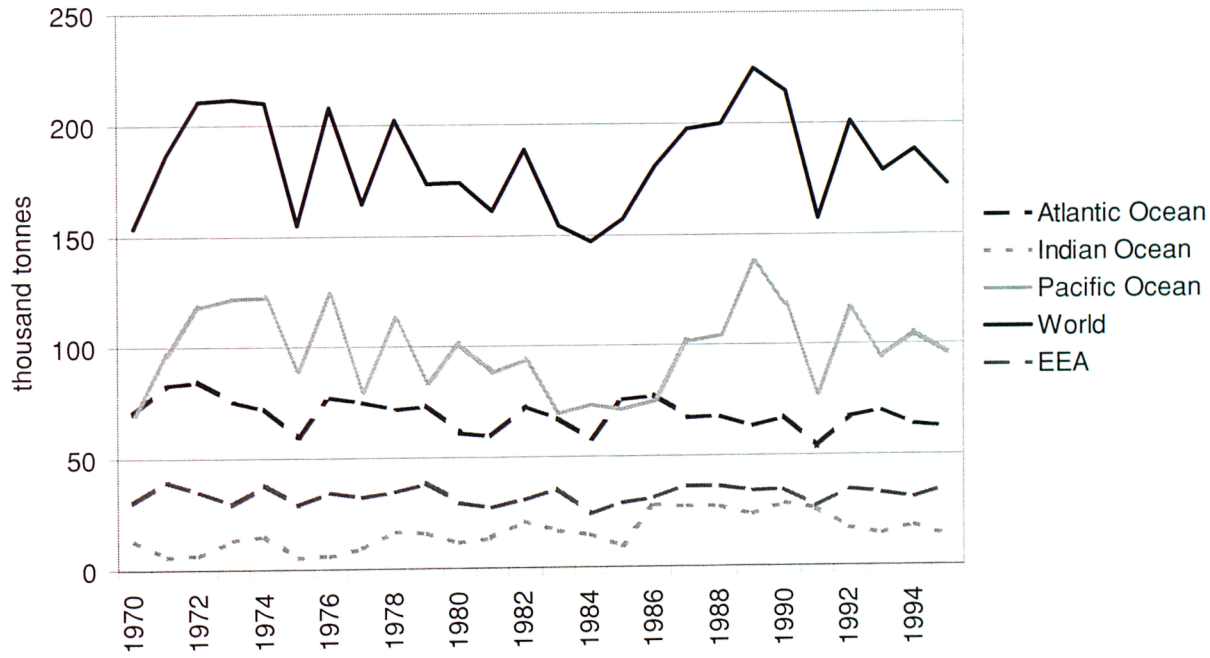
Catches of albacore

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
E	23 731	21 429
F	6 163	5 658
I	500	0
IRL	0	918
P	200	7 125
UK	0	196
EUR 15	30 594	35 326
EEA	30 594	35 326
JPN	63 700	61 020
TWN	37 041	56 467
USA	25 500	11 855
World	168 876	184 731

Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICCAT

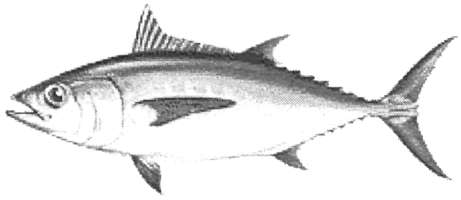
Catches of albacore: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICCAT

eurostat

Northern bluefin tuna



The Northern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) can grow to a large size (over 3 metres in length and 650 kg in weight) and is fished from the Gulf of Mexico to Newfoundland in the West Atlantic, and from the Canary Islands to the south of Iceland in the East Atlantic and throughout the Mediterranean Sea.

The EEA catch of Northern bluefin tuna in 1995 was 28 thousand tonnes. France, Spain and Italy were the major fishing nations. The EEA was responsible for 57% of the world catch of 49 thousand tonnes.

In the period since 1970 the EEA catch has more than tripled in a more or less regular manner. No similar trend is noticeable in the world catch though the catch in the three most recent years is the highest recorded.

The Mediterranean and the Northeast Atlantic are the major fishing areas for Northern bluefin tuna, contributing 62% and 16% respectively to the total in 1995. 84% of the EEA catch was from the Mediterranean with all but a small part of the remainder being caught in the Northeast Atlantic.

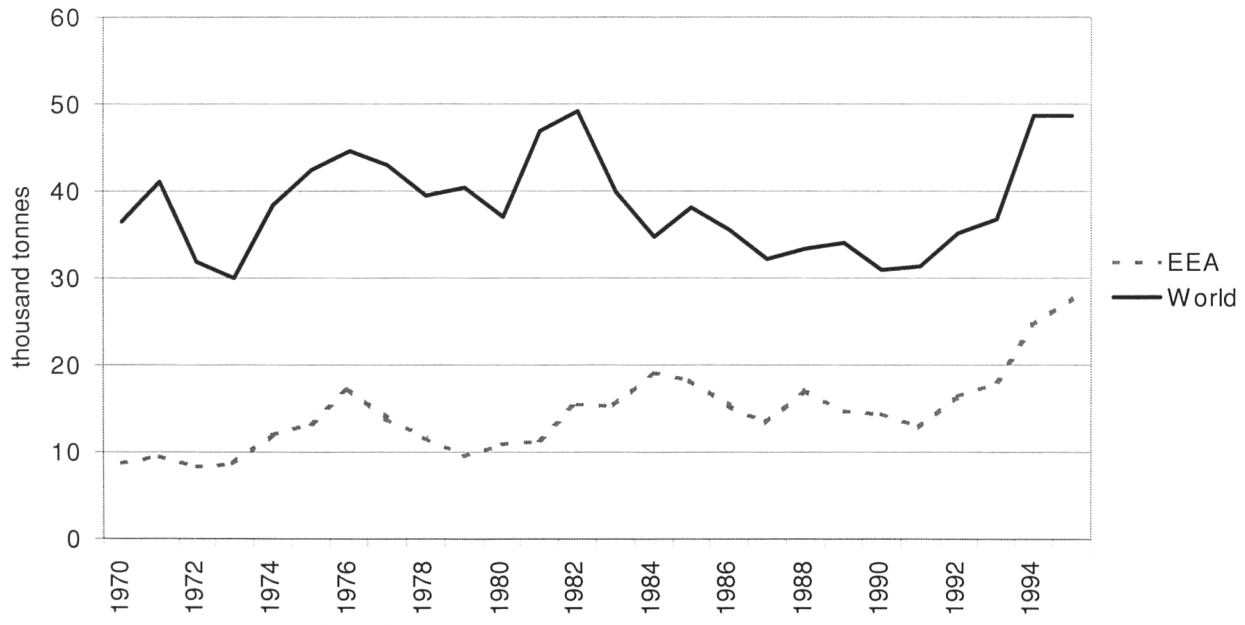
Catches of Northern bluefin tuna

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
D	14	1
E	4 134	8 426
F	1 832	12 638
EL	0	615
I	2 264	5 601
P	0	480
S	4	0
UK	0	1
EUR 15	8 248	27 762
NOR	470	0
EEA	8 718	27 762
JPN	15 400	11 362
USA	7 000	1 549
World	36 481	48 611

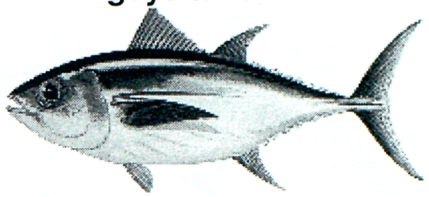
Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICCAT

Catches of Northern bluefin tuna: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICCAT

Bigeye tuna



The bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) is a relatively fast growing tuna species with a very wide distribution in all three oceans. It is caught by long-line, bait-boat (pole and line) and purse seine vessels from many countries. Recently artificial fish aggregating devices (floating objects) have been used to increase the efficiency of bait-boat fisheries.

The EEA catch of bigeye tuna in 1995 was 61 thousand tonnes. Spain, France and Portugal were the only countries involved in this fishery. The EEA catch was 19% of the world total for the species. Other major fishing nations were Japan, with over a third of the total, and Taiwan.

In the period 1970-1995 the world catch has increased in a fairly steady fashion from 143 thousand tonnes to 326 thousand tonnes. The EEA catch has also increased though more rapidly in the later part of the period.

The most important region for bigeye tuna between 1970-1995 was the Pacific Ocean though latterly there has been a significant increase in catches in the Atlantic Ocean. The EEA catch in 1995 was from the Eastern Central Atlantic (55%), the Western Indian Ocean (36%) and the Northeast Atlantic (8%). EEA vessels have only fished in the Western Indian Ocean since 1984.

Catches of bigeye tuna

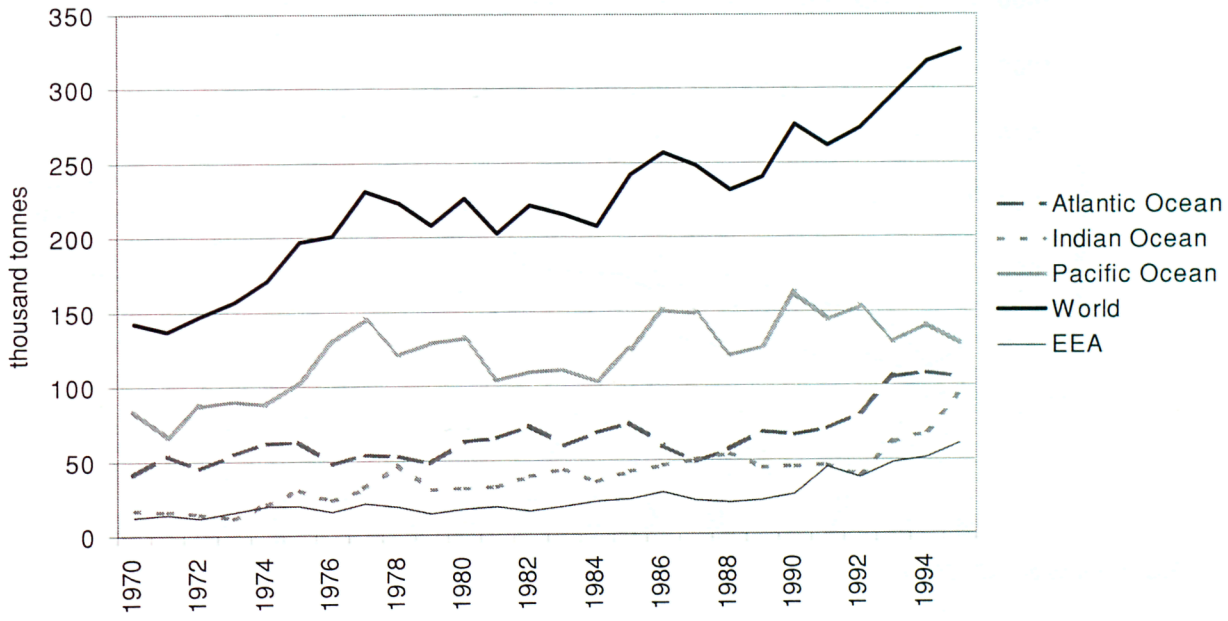
(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
E	4 072	35 681
F	3 748	15 634
P	5 132	9 662
EUR 15	12 952	60 977
EEA	12 952	60 977
JPN	92 300	130 855
TWN	25 906	59 289
World	142 605	326 130

Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICCAT

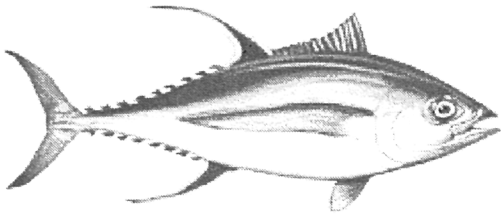
Catches of bigeye tuna: 1970-95

Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICCAT



eurostat

Yellowfin tuna



The Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) is a species found in large schools of tropical and sub-tropical waters of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The 1995 EEA catch of yellowfin tuna was 180 thousand tonne with Spain (59%) and France (40%) making the major contributions to the total. The EEA catch was 17% of the world total of just over a million tonnes. The other major fishing nations were Japan (11%), Mexico (10%) and Indonesia (9%).

In the period 1970-1995 the world catch has almost tripled while that of the EEA has increased six-fold. With the exception of the USA all the major fishing countries have increased their catch in this period.

The Pacific Ocean is the major fishing region for this species, accounting for an average of 67% of the total catches in the period 1970-1995. The two other oceans more or less share equally the remainder, though there have been significant increases recently in the catches from the Indian Ocean.

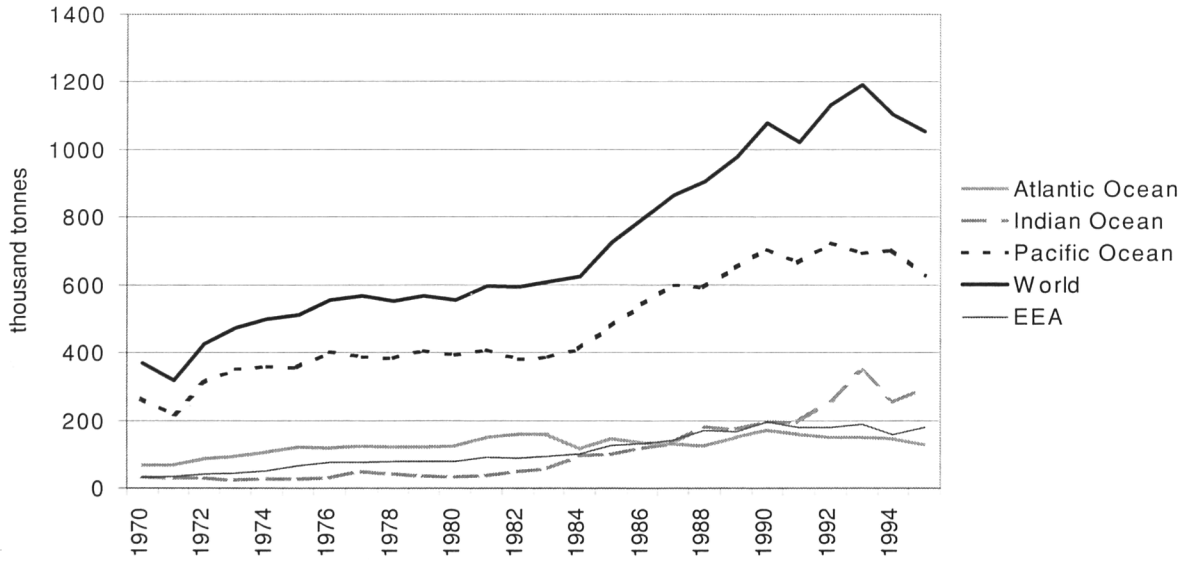
Catches of yellowfin tuna

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
E	7 087	107 182
F	23 519	72 774
P	0	231
EUR 15	30 606	180 187
EEA	30 606	180 187
JPN	78 900	118 959
IDN	6 100	99 000
MEX	5 000	107 837
USA	132 400	44 594
World	367 675	1 052 192

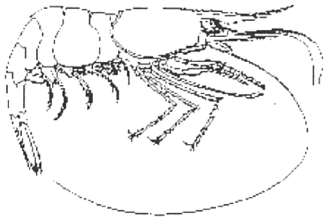
Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICCAT

Catches of yellowfin tuna: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO/ICCAT

Prawns



Prawns (species of the family *Pandalidae*) are a high value fishery product for which there is a strong market. They are found in the temperate waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and are generally caught using fine-mesh trawl nets. In some fisheries the shrimps are found with the young of commercially important fish and measures have to be taken (for example, selection grids in the trawls) to limit the by-catch of fish.

In 1995 the EEA catch of prawns was 136 thousand tonnes with 90% being caught by Iceland and Norway. The EEA catch was 43% of the total catch with Greenland and the USA being the major non-EEA fishing nations.

The total catch of prawns has increased in a more or less regular manner, more than tripling since 1970. In the same period the EEA catch has increased seven-fold. The relative importance of the different fishing areas has changed since 1970. In 1970 54% of the catch was from the Pacific Ocean while in 1995 this had decreased to 6%. On the other hand the catches in the North Atlantic increased from 45% to 95% of the total. In 1970 all the EEA catch was from the Northeast Atlantic. In 1995 while the majority of EEA catch (87%) still came from the Northeast Atlantic, 13% came from the Northwest Atlantic.

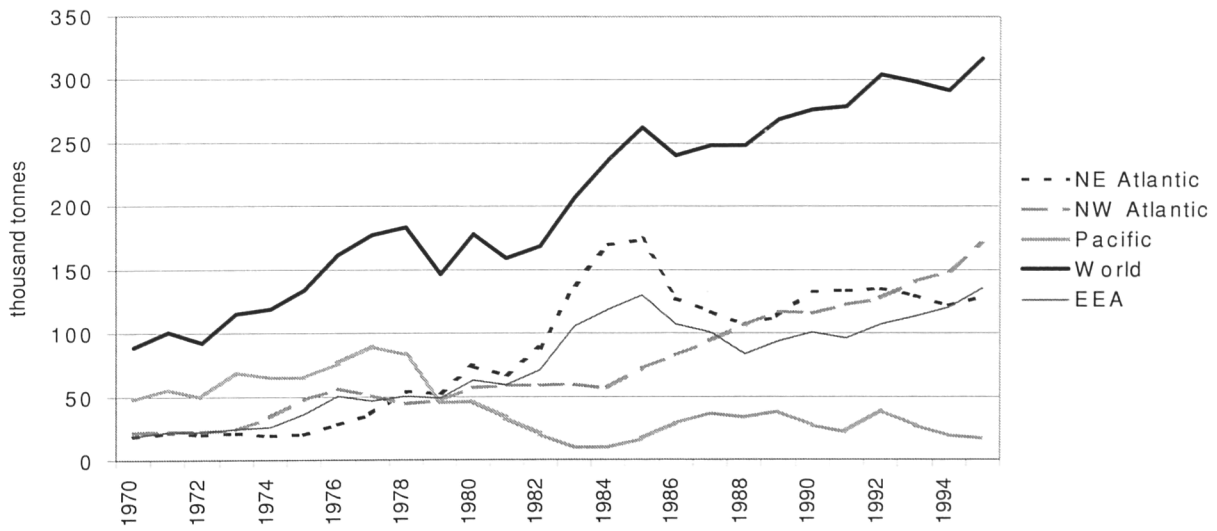
Catches of prawns

(tonnes live weight)

	1970	1995
DK	4 200	8 459
E	0	379
P	0	20
S	2 700	2 678
UK	100	1 563
EUR 15	7 000	13 099
ISL	4 500	83 529
NOR	7 600	38 996
EEA	19 100	135 624
GRL	8 400	81 926
USA	53 300	22 546
World	88 900	316 976

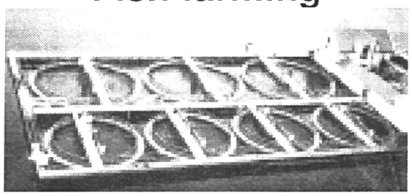
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Catches of prawns: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Fish farming



Although fish-farming is by no means a new activity in Europe (the Romans are known to have farmed carp) until about 20 years ago it was almost entirely of an extensive nature. Typically, farmers would stock a pond with young fish, perhaps add some food periodically, and return a year or so later to harvest the adult fish. However more recently there have been rapid developments in intensive techniques in which the environment under which the fish are cultures are closely monitored and controlled and the diet of the fish is closely regulated.

As a result EEA production from fish farming has more than trebled from 198 thousand tonnes in 1984 to 675 thousand tonnes in 1995. The 1995 fish production from farming was 6% of the total fish production in 1995 compared with 2% in 1984. The major producers in 1995 were Norway (282 thousand tonnes, mainly of Atlantic salmon), the UK (87 thousand tonnes of mainly trout and salmon), France and Italy (65 and 59 thousand tonnes respectively, mainly of trout).

The contribution of fish farming to the total fish production is appreciable in several EEA countries with important capture industries (exceeding 10% of the total production in Germany, Greece, France, and Italy). These data tend to under-estimate the importance of fish-farming in that the farmed products are all high-quality food products whereas the total fish production include large quantities of fish which are caught for reduction to fish meal and oil.

Production from fish farming

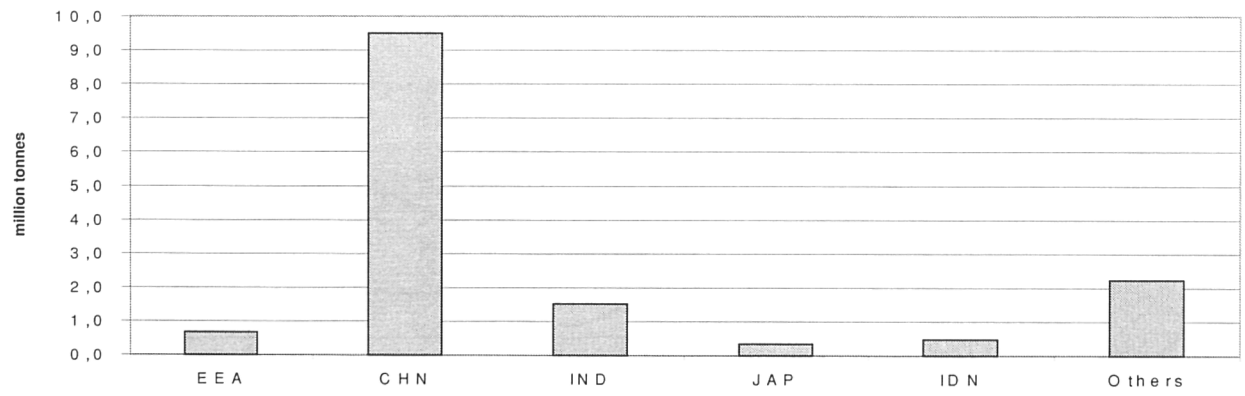
(tonnes live weight)

	1984		1995	
	Product-ion	% of total fish pro-duction	Product-ion	% of total fish pro-duction
B	310	1	846	3
DK	23 609	1	42 205	2
D	38 474	10	39 218	14
EL	2 300	2	21 755	14
E	14 131	1	28 518	3
F	26 940	5	65 488	13
IRL	1 097	1	13 284	5
I	31 900	9	59 040	18
NL	170	0	2 604	1
A	4 000	91	4 055	91
P	1 145	0	1 734	1
FIN	9 586	8	17 345	9
S	2 000	1	6 040	1
UK	16 485	2	86 939	10
EUR 15	172 147	3	389 071	6
ISL	137	0	3 451	0
NOR	25 869	2	282 463	10
EEA	198 153	2	674 985	6

Source: Eurostat/FAO

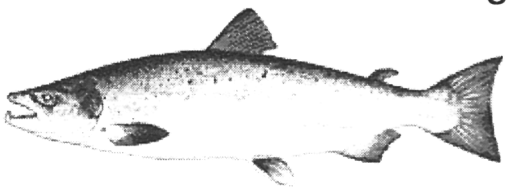
While the increase in EEA farmed fish production is a major development it still is only a minor part of the total world production (just 4.6% of 14.7 million tonnes). The major producers are in Asia with 11.9 million tonnes being attributed to just four countries (China Mainland, India, Indonesia and Japan).

Production of farmed fish: 1995



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Atlantic salmon farming



The farming of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) is one of the great successes of the European fish farming industry. Typically the farming takes place in floating cages in relatively sheltered inlets from the sea, using young fish produced in freshwater hatcheries.

EEA production has risen dramatically from 27 thousand tonnes in 1984 to 355 thousand tonnes in 1995, a thirteen-fold increase in eleven years. The major producer is Norway with nearly 270 thousand tonnes in 1995, followed by the United Kingdom (70 thousand tonnes) and Ireland (12 thousand tonnes).

In 1984 the EEA was responsible for 99% of the world production of farmed Atlantic salmon. However, farming of the species outside of its native range (in Australia and Chile) combined with increased production in Canada, the Faeroe Islands and the USA has reduced the EEA contribution to 75% of the total production of 472 thousand tonnes in 1995.

The production of farmed Atlantic salmon now far out-strips the catch of wild salmon. The wild catch has remained relatively stable at an average of 7.7 thousand tones. In 1984 the wild catch accounted for close to 20% of the total production whereas in 1995 this had dropped to under 2%.

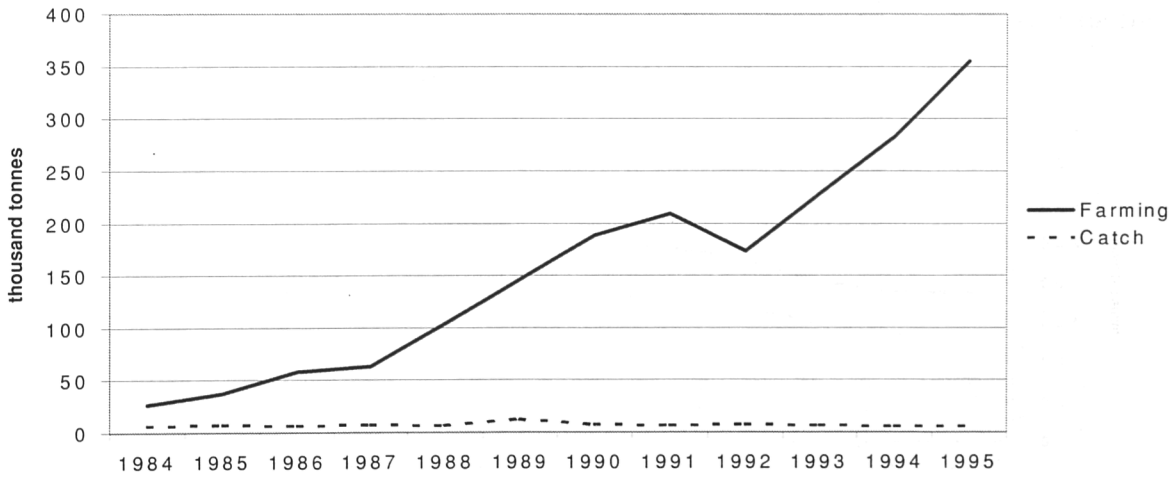
Production of farmed Atlantic salmon

(tonnes live weight)

	1984	1995
B	0	0
DK	0	0
D	0	0
EL	0	0
E	150	695
F	0	894
IRL	385	11 811
I	0	0
NL	0	0
A	0	0
P	0	0
FIN	93	41
S	118	19
UK	3 912	70 322
EUR15	4 658	83 782
ISL	107	2 591
NOR	22 300	268 195
EEA	27 065	354 568
World	27 404	471 813

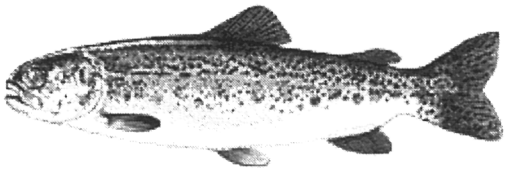
Source: Eurostat/FAO

EEA production of Atlantic salmon: 1984-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Rainbow trout farming



It was in the late 1960's with the farming of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), a native of North America, that the rapid development of fish farming in Western Europe started. Typically the farming is conducted in ponds adjacent to a plentiful supply of good quality freshwater with the young fish being supplied by hatcheries. Development of water recycling and filtration techniques has improved the efficient use of limited water resources. Initially the production was almost exclusively of individual portion size fish although more recently there has been a development of the production of larger "salmonised" trout reared in sea-water cages as used for salmon farming (*qv*). The farming of trout was largely instrumental in the development of the industry producing pelleted fish food.

Statistics for the early years are difficult to find although it is estimated that the EEA production in 1975 was in the order of 60 000 tonnes. By 1984 this had risen to 137 000 tonnes and by 1995 to 234 thousand tonnes.

The species is perhaps only second to the carp in being the most widely cultivated in the world, with over 60 countries reporting production data. Between 1984 and 1995 the world production of rainbow trout almost doubled from 187 to 358 thousand tonnes with the EEA being responsible for 65% of the 1995 production. Indeed the only other country having reported production approaching that of many EEA countries is the USA (25 thousand tonnes in 1995), the home of the species.

Within the EEA all countries except Greece and Luxembourg report production of rainbow trout with Denmark, France and Italy being the major producers.

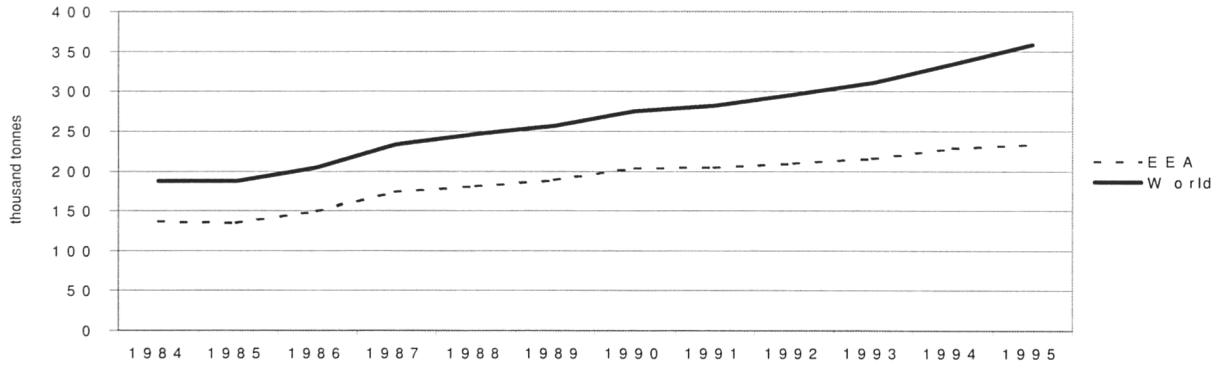
Production of rainbow trout

(tonnes live weight)

	1984	1995
B	300	420
DK	23 593	41 005
D	19 619	22 550
EL	0	0
E	13 812	22 000
F	24 750	48 924
IRL	712	1 473
I	23 000	40 330
NL	150	50
A	3 000	3 020
P	700	948
FIN	9 493	17 269
S	1 849	5 772
UK	12 353	16 134
EUR15	133 331	219 895
ISL	30	379
NOR	3 569	13 246
EEA	136 930	233 520
World	187 087	358 456

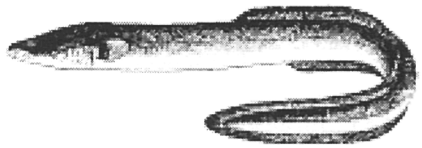
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Production of rainbow trout: 1984-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Eel farming



The extensive farming of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) has been practised in Italian saltwater lagoons for many years with production in the range from 2500 to 4200 tonnes annually. More recently other EEA countries (notable the Netherlands, Denmark, Greece and France) have developed eel farming, some using more intensive techniques, and have pushed the total EEA production up from 2700 tonnes in 1984 to 6800 tonnes in 1995. Most of this increase was in the early years of this period and production has more or less stabilised at around the current level.

With the EEA producing the greater part of the world production (it contributed an average of 95% to the total over the period 1984-95) the total production mirrored that of the EEA increasing from 2.9 thousand tonnes in 1984 to 7.1 thousand tonnes in 1995.

A major constraint on the further increase in the production appears to be the reliance on the capture of wild young eels (elvers) as an input to the industry. The artificial breeding of eels and rearing of the elvers has proved to be technically difficult and the wild resources are considered to be very limited.

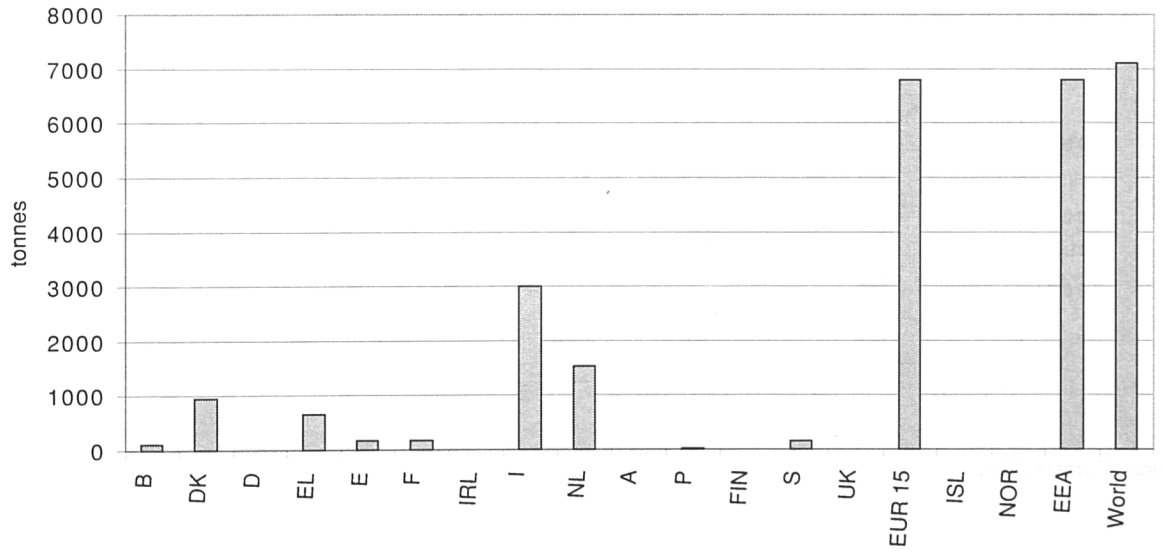
Production of farmed European eels

(tonnes live weight)

	1984	1995
B	0	125
DK	16	950
D	0	0
EL	0	659
E	15	174
F	30	180
IRL	0	0
I	2 600	3 000
NL	0	1 535
A	0	0
P	60	10
FIN	0	0
S	15	158
UK	0	0
EUR 15	2 736	6 791
ISL	0	0
NOR	0	0
EEA	2 736	6 791
World	2 949	7 103

Source: Eurostat/FAO

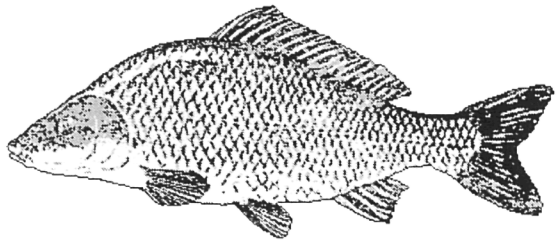
Production of farmed eels in 1995.



Source: Eurostat/FAO

eurostat

Carp farming



Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) is the most commonly farmed fish in the world with production data being received from over 80 countries. In 1995 the world production was 1.8 million tonnes with 1.4 million tonnes being produced in China Mainland.

In Europe carp is a traditional food fish. The method of culture is largely extensive using traditional methods. The EEA production has remained at between 19 and 28 thousand tonnes between 1984 and 1995 with no discernable trend.

The largest production is in Germany (13 to 21 thousand tonnes) supplemented by very much smaller quantities from France, Austria, Italy, Greece, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

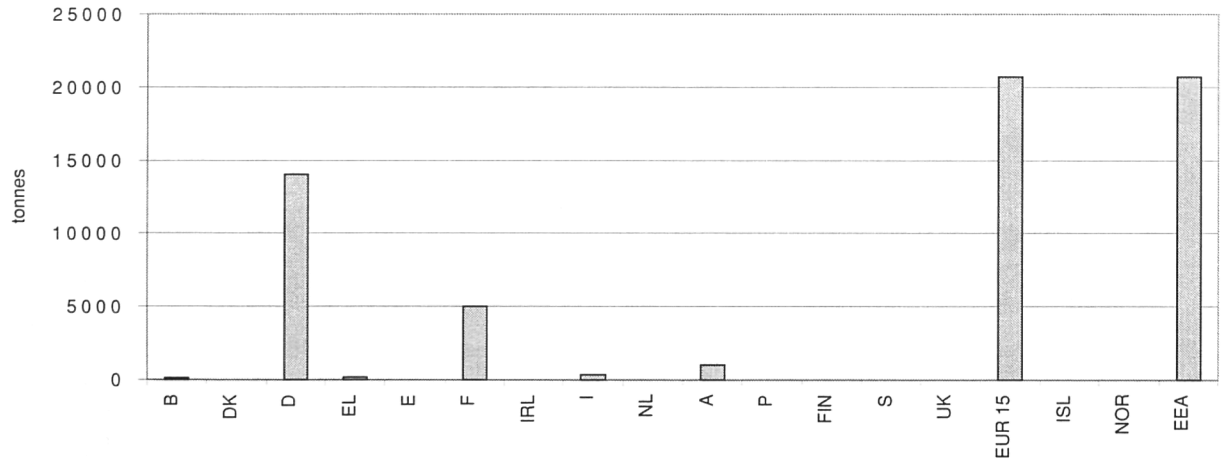
EEA production of common carp

(tonnes live weight)

	1984	1995
B	10	100
DK	0	0
D	18 855	14 000
EL	300	174
E	0	0
F	2 000	5 000
IRL	0	0
I	700	360
NL	0	0
A	1 000	1 035
P	0	0
FIN	0	0
S	2	0
UK	50	13
EUR15	22 917	20 682
ISL	0	0
NOR	0	0
EEA	22 917	20 682

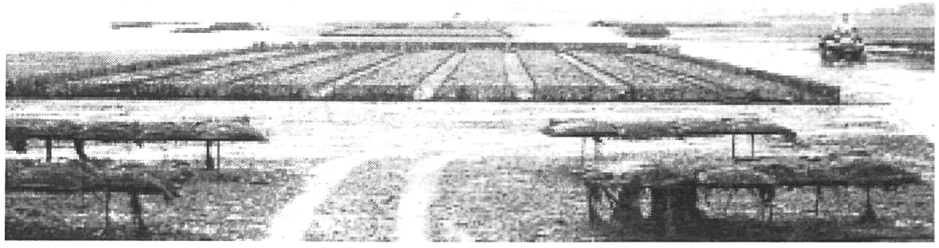
Source: Eurostat/FAO

EEA Production of farmed common carp: 1995



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Mollusc farming



Unlike fish farming there has been no major developments in the level of EEA farming of mollusc species. This is principally because the major species farmed, bi-valve molluscs such as oysters and mussels, are reared principally by traditional extensive methods of encouraging the settling of the pelagic young on prepared beds or artificial supports. (Indeed the distinction between the farming of bi-valve molluscs and the harvesting of native populations is often hard to draw.)

The EEA production of farmed molluscs has remained around 600 thousand tonnes for the whole of the period 1984-1995. Within the EEA the major producers are France (215 thousand tonnes in 1995), Italy (161 thousand tonnes) and the Spain (107 thousand tonnes). The EEA production has not held its position in the world. In 1984 it had 31% of the world's 2.2 million tonnes whereas it 1995 it had only 12% of the 5.1 million tonnes. This situation is largely accounted for by an eight-fold increase in the production of farmed molluscs in China Mainland from 386 thousand tonnes in 1984 to 3.1 million tonnes in 1995.

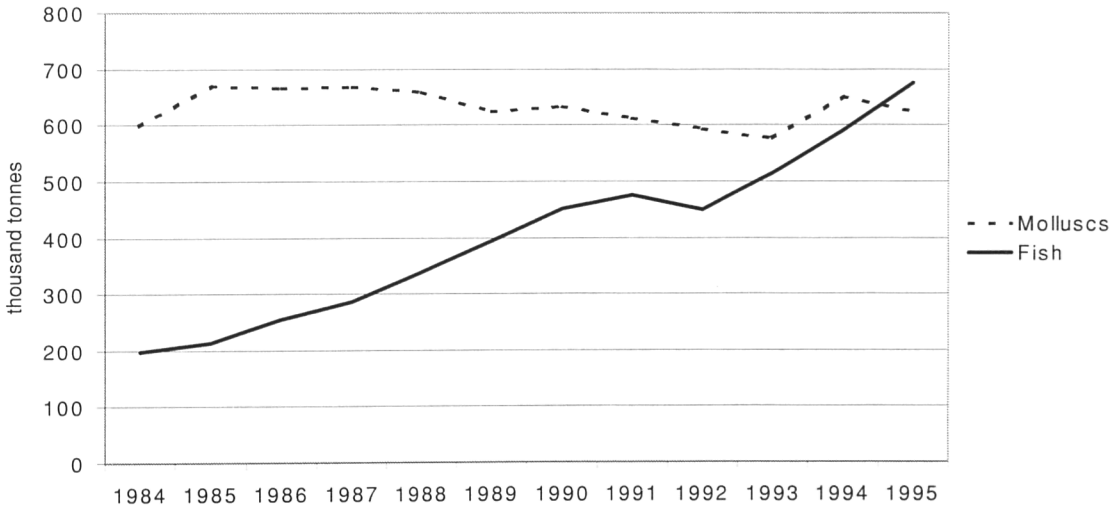
EEA production of farmed molluscs in 1995

(*tonnes live weight*)

	Production
B	0
DK	0
D	19 046
EL	10 889
E	107 374
F	215 165
IRL	18 623
I	160 800
NL	80 681
A	0
P	3 247
FIN	0
S	1 521
UK	6 897
EUR15	624 243
ISL	0
NOR	8
EEA	624 251

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Production of farmed fish and molluscs: 1984-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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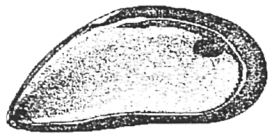
Mussel farming



The farming of mussels is perhaps unique in Western Europe in that it produces a staple food rather than a luxury product. The only country with a long history of mussel farming is France where it started in the 13th Century. In Spain, for example, mussel farming only became important after the Second World War. The farming employs low technology methods, commonly of encouraging the settling of the free-swimming larvae on ropes suspended from the surface.

The farming is limited is to the production of two species, the blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) and the Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*). Italy, Spain, France and the Netherlands all are major producers but they are farmed to a lesser extent in six other EU Member States. The EEA production in 1995 (383 thousand tonnes) was 38% of the world production.

Since 1984 there has been no obvious trend in EEA production of farmed mussels. The production has ranged between 370 and 514 thousand tonnes. Given that the majority of favourable sites for mussel farming are already exploited, this relative stability is not unexpected and the annual variations are probably due to natural factors (eg weather, other environmental conditions and disease). However the EEA's share of the world production has fallen from 68% in 1984 to 37% in 1995. This is due primarily to a much increased production by certain Asian countries (notably China, Thailand and Korea) and New Zealand.

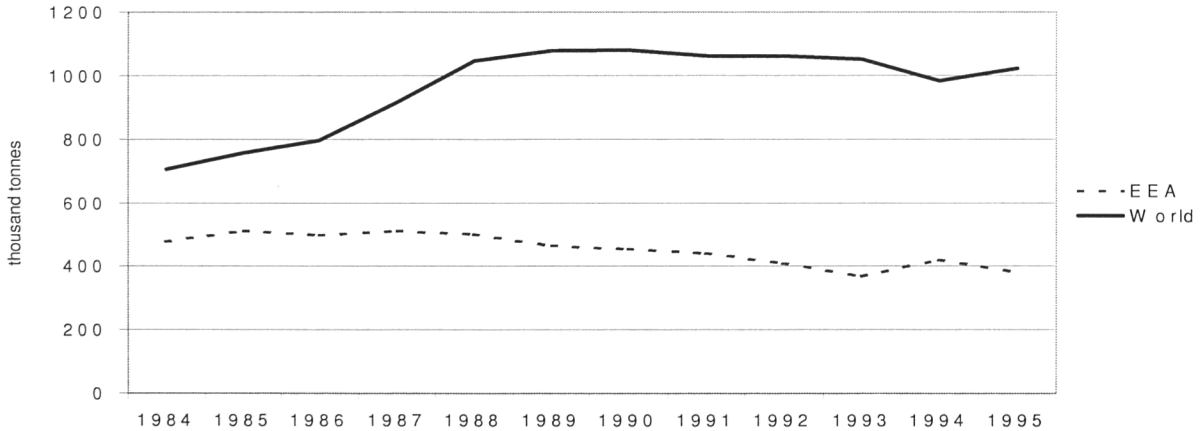
Production of farmed mussels

(tonnes live weight)

	1984	1995
B	0	0
DK	0	0
D	59311	17782
EL	200	10844
E	230000	92250
F	52812	64194
IRL	13717	15556
I	60000	95000
NL	60149	79281
A	0	0
P	0	380
FIN	0	0
S	1278	1521
UK	1003	5801
EUR 15	478470	382609
ISL	0	0
NOR	0	8
EEA	478470	382617
World	706212	1022413

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Production of farmed mussels: 1984-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Oyster farming

Oyster farming has been practised in western Europe since Roman times. The methods used are largely low technology using the collection of the wild young (spat) and planting them out in prepared areas. More recently hatchery production of the spat has been developed.

EEA production of farmed oysters is of three species, the European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), the Pacific cupped oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) and the Portuguese cupped oyster (*Crassostrea angulata*).

Approximately 93% of the EEA production of oysters in 1995 was in France but 7 other countries have very limited production. The production has changed very little between 1984 and 1995 (varying only between 121 and 160 thousand tonnes with no obvious trend). This situation is not unexpected because the favourable sites for oyster culture are already largely exploited. Variations in production are probably due to weather and other environmental conditions.

The EEA's contribution to the world total has remained relatively constant at around 14% over the period. The major world producers are Japan, Korea (each with an annual production of about 200 thousand tonnes) and more recently, China (373 thousand tonnes in 1995).

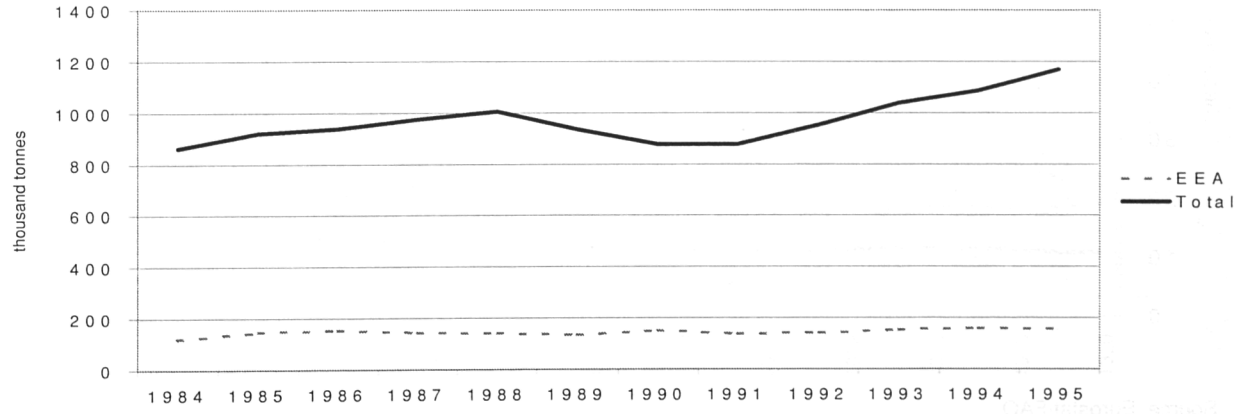
Production of farmed oysters

(tonnes live weight)

	1984	1995
B	0	0
DK	0	0
D	0	73
EL	0	32
E	3 000	5 213
F	112 702	146 990
IRL	508	2 936
I	5 000	0
NL	0	1 400
A	0	0
P	0	652
FIN	0	0
S	2	0
UK	124	992
EUR 15	121 336	158 288
EEA	121 336	158 288
World	863 120	1 170 141

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Production of farmed oysters: 1984-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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Consumption of fishery products

Fish is a valuable source of protein and plays an important role in the European diet.

From food balance sheets developed by FAO, the per capita apparent consumption of fishery products in the EEA was 22 kg/head/year in 1993. This is above the world average of 13 kg/head/year but well below that of such major fish consumers as, for example, Japan (68 kg/head/year). There is a considerable variation within the EEA with the highest consumption being shown by Iceland (93 kg/head/year) with its small population heavily dependent on the fishing industry. Other heavy consumers of fishery products are Portugal (57 kg/head/year), Norway (46 kg/head/year) and Spain (39 kg/head/year). Austria (which is remote from fishing ports), Germany (with a relatively small coast-line and a large inland area) and, surprisingly, the Netherlands have the smallest per capita consumptions (at 10, 12 and 12 kg/head/year respectively).

The situation in the supply of fishery products has changed very little over the period 1970-93, the only point of note being the sharp decline in the supply in the states of former USSR after 1990.

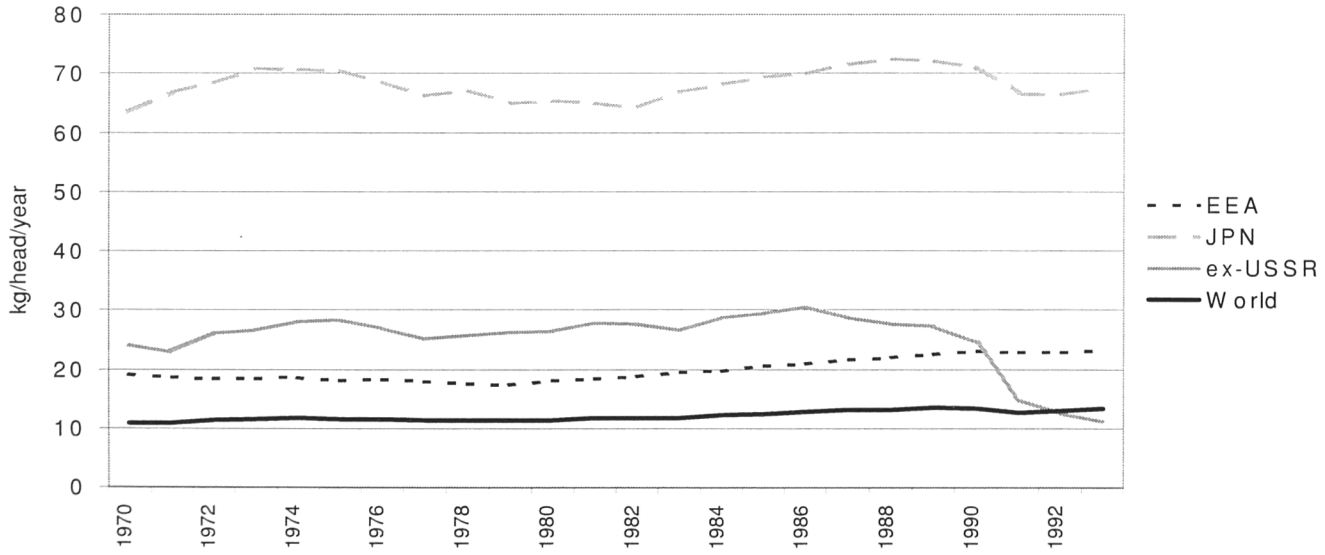
FAO has calculated that the world population obtains 5.6% of its intake of protein from fishery products. Again the EEA is above this average at 6.1% but there is a wide variation between the member countries, from 21.8% for Iceland to 2.9% for Austria.

Per capita consumption of fishery products

Country	Supply kg/head/year	% of total protein
B/L	18	4.8
DK	20	11.0
D	12	3.8
EL	24	5.8
E	39	10.8
F	27	5.4
IRL	18	3.8
I	21	5.6
NL	12	4.0
A	10	2.9
P	57	13.6
FIN	33	10.0
S	27	8.6
UK	18	5.1
EUR 15	22	5.9
ISL	93	21.8
NOR	46	15.5
EEA	22	6.1
JAP	68	25.9
USA	23	4.5
ex-USSR	11	4.3
World	13	5.6

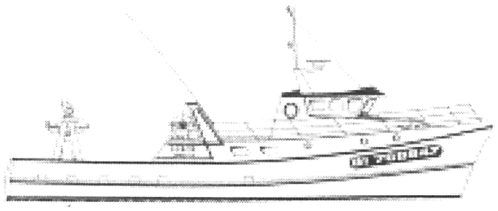
Source: FAO

Per capita supply of fishery products: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Fishing fleet



The EEA fishing fleet consists of about 110 000 fishing vessels with a total tonnage of 2.3 million tonnes and a total power of 8.1 million kilowatts. 86% of these vessels have a tonnage of less than 25 tonnes and are vessels operating in coastal waters. 13% are vessels of between 25 and 500 tonnes and only 0.4% have a tonnage greater than 500 tonnes.

In number Greece has the largest fleet (20 343 vessels) followed by Spain (18 483), Italy (16 352) and Portugal (12 101). However, on average the Spanish vessels are larger than the Greek vessels and thus the Spanish fleet is the largest in the EEA in terms of total tonnage and total power.

The median age of the EUR15 fleet is 19 years, with Spain having the oldest fleet (median age 25 years) and Finland the youngest (median age 11 years). 4% of the EUR15 vessels have an age of greater than 50 years.

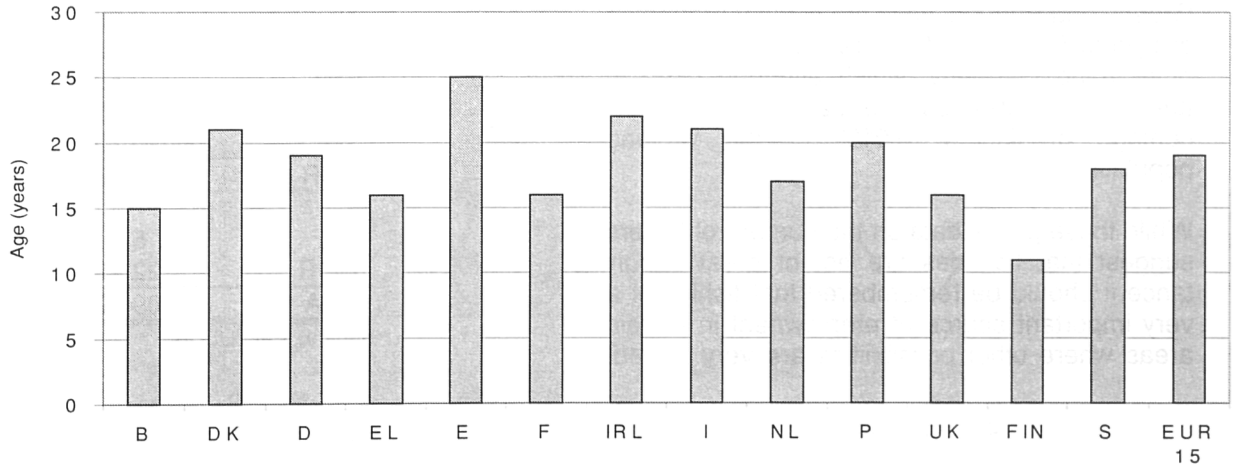
Complete and comparable data for earlier periods are not available but it is apparent that, since 1970, the number of large vessels (ie vessels best suited to fishing in distant waters to which access is now more restricted) has decreased greatly whereas the proportion of smaller (and more adaptable) vessels has increased.

EEA fishing fleet: 1995

Country	Total number	Total tonnage	Total power
		(t)	(kw)
B	155	23 101	65 965
DK	5 200	96 856	404 981
D	2 392	76 773	169 182
EL	20 343	116 399	655 290
E	18 483	658	1 631 379
F	6 593	178 398	990 509
IRL	1 389	62 091	197 846
I	16 352	260 199	1 515 842
NL	1 006	179 594	506 990
P	12 101	125 429	396 943
FIN	4 106	24 339	224 384
S	2513	51 135	266 205
UK	9 452	254 812	1 115 163
EUR 15	100 085	2 107 293	8 140 679
ISL	953	120 396	:
NOR	8 318	112 454	920 168
EEA	110 355	2 340 133	:

Source: Eurostat/DG XIV

Median age of EU fishing fleet: 1995



Source: Eurostat/DG XIV

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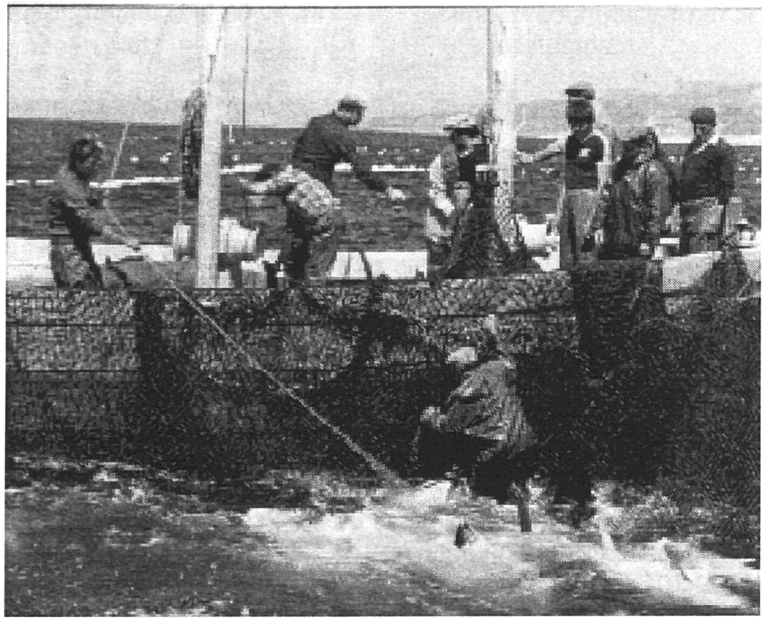
Employment in fisheries



[Note: in many countries statistics on the number of fishers are not readily available and have to be compiled from a number sources: of official statistics, administrations and professional organisations. In various instances the data have been estimated by Eurostat. As a result the data are not strictly comparable and have to be used with caution. The latest year for which data are available is 1994. No comparable data for 1970 are available.]

The number of fishers in the EEA is estimated at about 300 000. This represents about 0.2% of the working population. Not surprisingly there are large differences between the countries. In Iceland and Norway where fishing is a major industry fishers make up around 3.9 and 1.1% of the working population. Of the EU countries Greece and Portugal have the highest proportion of fishers (1.0% and 0.7% respectively. On the other hand Germany, which although large in area has a short coast line, has a very low percentage of fishers, 0.01% of the working population.

While these global data on the number of fishers suggest that fisheries are not of great importance it should be remembered that fishing is a very important source of employment in certain areas where other possibilities are very limited. Furthermore these data refer only to the fishers. Many more people ashore are involved in fisheries, both supplying the fishing industry and in marketing and processing the products. Estimates vary but possibly for every fisher there are ten people in fishery related work ashore.

Number of fishers

	1994
B	652
DK	5 299
D	4 979
EL	40 164
E	77 962
F	27 598
IRL	7 700
I	45 000
NL	2 834
P	31 721
FIN	2 400
S	3 500
UK	20 751
EUR 15	270 560
ISL	5 713
NOR	22 920
EEA	299 193

Source: FAO/OECD

Total foreign trade in fishery products

In 1995 the EEA had a deficit of 3.7 thousand million ecu in the trade in fishery products (that is, the value of imports exceeded the value of exports by that amount). Of the member countries, only Norway, Iceland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Ireland had positive balances. France, Italy, Spain and Germany all had deficits well in excess of 1 thousand million ecu each.

In 1970 the situation was not greatly different in that the EEA had an appreciable deficit. However, a direct comparison of the sums involved in 1970 and 1995 should be avoided because of changes in the value of the ECU. Those countries having the largest positive balances in 1995 also had them in 1970. The major difference is that Spain and Portugal had positive balances in 1970 but had deficits in 1995.

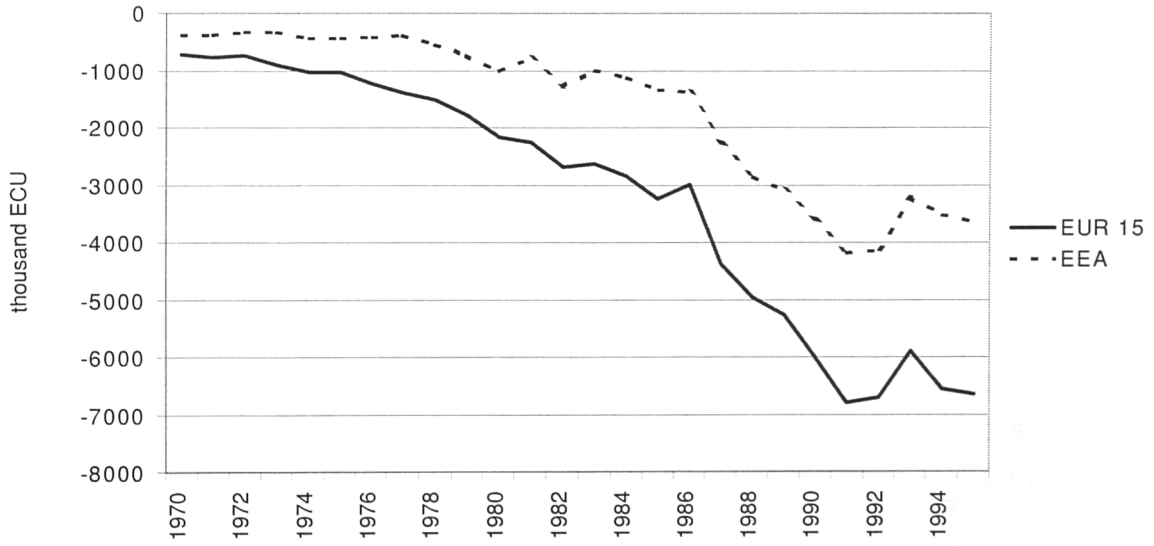
Total foreign trade in fishery products

(thousand ECU)

	1970			1995		
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Imports	Exports	Balance
B/L	84 467	17 724	-66 743	796 770	283 708	-513 062
DK	46 045	162 033	115 988	1 215 572	2 050 241	834 670
D	259 032	62 490	-196 542	1 928 019	644 604	-1 283 416
EL	12 235	3 814	-8 421	176 564	135 879	-40 684
E	45 543	93 414	47 872	2 343 833	936 413	-1 407 419
F	199 438	36 188	-163 250	2 468 260	766 466	-1 701 794
IRL	8 360	11 491	3 130	69 131	264 424	195 293
I	156 132	11 875	-144 257	1 894 468	272 556	-1 621 912
NL	91 209	109 328	18 118	942 254	1 179 747	237 492
A	28 087	829	-27 258	144 049	13 310	-130 739
P	31 662	45 624	13 962	602 775	222 272	-380 503
FIN	20 292	429	-19 862	86 738	17 150	-69 588
S	96 633	22 240	-74 393	414 611	195 925	-218 685
UK	287 649	53 875	-233 773	1 496 495	865 600	-630 895
EUR 15(1)	1 366 783	631 353	-735 430	14 579 539	7 848 296	-6 731 243
ISL	65	110 454	110 389	30 815	1 026 411	995 596
NOR	18 010	254 302	236 292	374 909	2 387 345	2 012 436
EEA(1)	1 384 858	996 109	-388 749	14 985 263	11 262 052	-3 723 210

(1) includes trade between member countries
Source: Eurostat/FAO

Balance of trade in all fishery products: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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Foreign trade in fresh, chilled & frozen fish

In 1995 the EEA had a positive balance of trade in fresh, chilled and frozen fish of 420 thousand tonnes. Norway and Iceland contributed greatly to this situation with healthy positive balances. The EU had a negative balance of over 700 thousand tonnes with only Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden having positive balances. Germany, Spain and Italy were the countries with the major deficits.

In the period 1970-1995 there has been around a three-fold increase in the volume of EEA trade in fresh, chilled and frozen fish. In 1970 Germany again had the greatest deficit. However a major difference between 1970 and 1995 has been the deterioration in the situation in Spain and, to a lesser extent, Denmark, Portugal and Sweden. On the other hand, Norway and Ireland greatly improved their situations.

Foreign trade in fresh, chilled and frozen fish

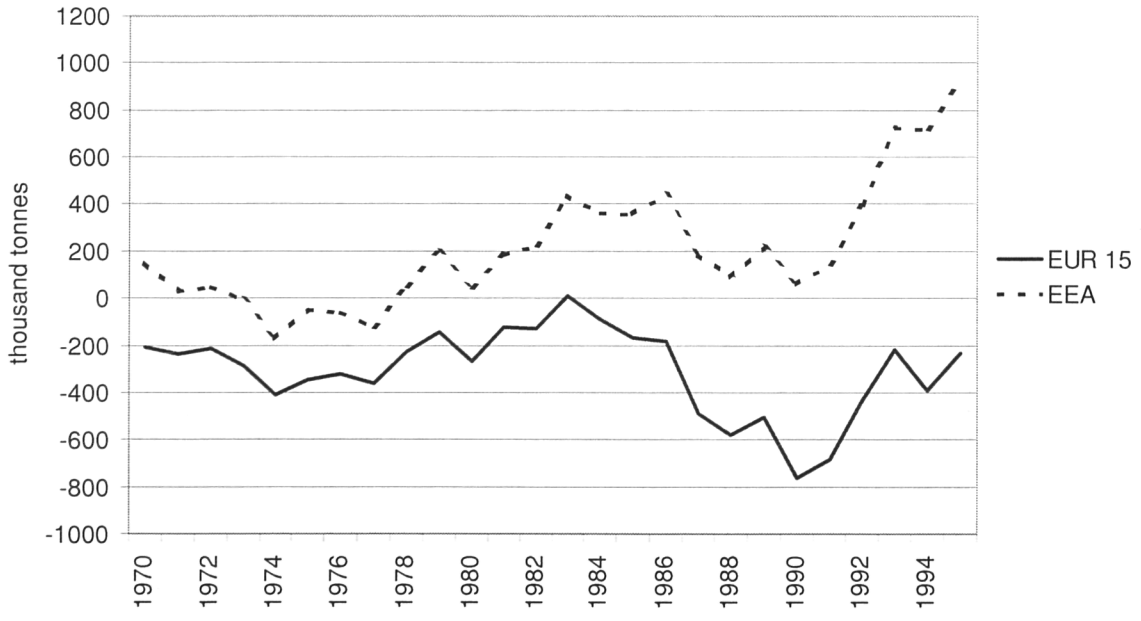
(thousand tonnes product weight)

	1970			1995		
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Imports	Exports	Balance
B/L	47	21.8	-25.2	77.4	29.1	-48.4
DK	124.9	179.5	54.6	388.7	349.6	-39.1
D	252.9	68.2	-184.7	491.1	167.6	-323.4
EL	2.1	1.5	-0.6	35.8	15.6	-20.2
E	14.4	19.9	5.5	494.9	273.5	-221.4
F	95.7	22.8	-72.9	397.6	262.9	-134.7
IRL	2.3	15.7	13.4	12.6	236.7	224.1
I	108.1	22.6	-85.5	266.0	56.0	-210.0
NL	48.7	89.4	40.7	308.4	446.6	138.2
A	12.4	0.2	-12.2	15.4	0.2	-15.2
P	19.7	4.3	-15.4	151.8	48.5	-103.3
FIN	7.7	0.1	-7.6	12.4	5.8	-6.7
S	36.5	155.7	119.2	74.3	106.4	32.1
UK	109.8	71.9	-37.9	262.0	252.1	-9.9
EUR 15(1)	882.2	673.6	-208.6	2 988.5	2 250.6	-738.1
ISL	0.0	170.8	170.8	19.7	242.9	223.2
NOR	13.1	199.7	186.6	198.1	1 133.4	935.3
EEA(1)	895.3	1 044.1	148.8	3 206.3	3 626.9	420.6

(1) includes trade between member countries

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Balance of trade in fresh, chilled and frozen fish: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Foreign trade in salted, dried & smoked fish

In 1995 the EEA had a positive balance of 61 thousand tonnes in the trade in salted dried and smoked fish. This situation arose from good positive balances by Norway and Iceland overturning a 169 thousand deficit for the EU. Portugal had the biggest single deficit (of 78 thousand tonnes) but Italy, Spain and Germany made significant contributions to the end result. Denmark and, to a lesser extent, the UK and Ireland were the only EU countries making positive contributions to the total.

The 1995 situation was significantly worse than the situation in 1970 when the EEA had a positive balance of 98 thousand tonnes. A major cause of this change was a positive balance for Spain of 54 thousand tonnes in 1970 turning to a negative balance of 35 thousand tonnes in 1995. Portugal's deficit also increased significantly, by 40 thousand tonnes in the period. The overall situation would have been much worse had Norway not increased its balance from 93 thousand tonnes in 1970 to 164 thousand tonnes in 1995.

Foreign trade in salted, dried and smoked fish

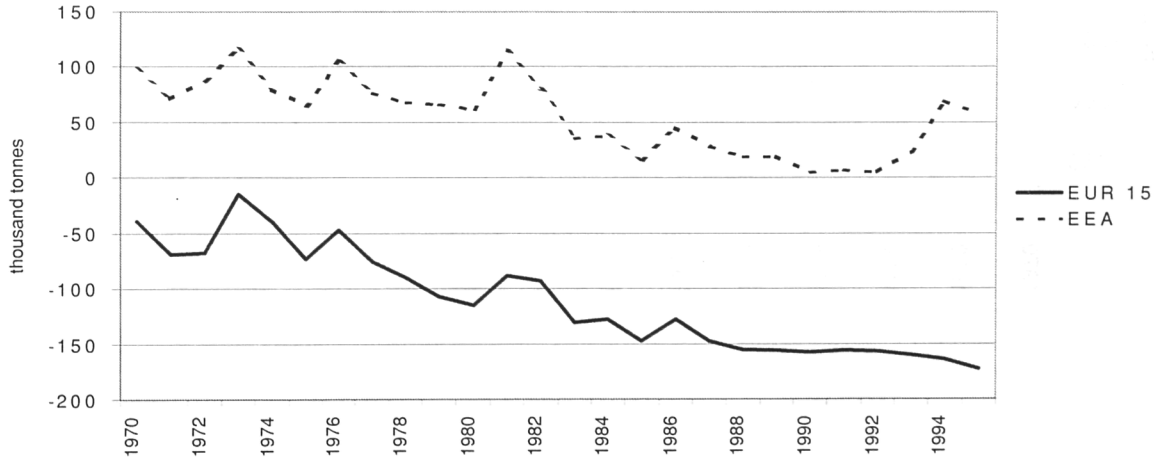
(thousand tonnes product weight)

	1970			1995		
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Imports	Exports	Balance
B/L	15.3	7.4	-7.9	5.0	1.3	-3.7
DK	2.6	4.0	1.4	39.9	62.5	22.6
D	29.0	5.3	-23.7	35.3	5.0	-30.3
EL	11.1	0.6	-10.5	7.5	3.4	-4.0
E	12.1	66.0	53.9	43.9	9.5	-34.5
F	14.2	11.5	-2.7	18.3	10.4	-7.9
IRL	1.7	15.1	13.4	1.2	6.2	5.0
I	48.6	0.8	-47.8	38.5	1.1	-37.5
NL	15.5	31.6	16.1	18.3	15.8	-2.5
A	0.5	0.0	-0.5	1.4	0.0	-1.4
P	38.3	0.4	-37.9	79.5	1.9	-77.7
FIN	0.5	0.0	-0.5	1.0	0.3	-0.7
S	11.4	0.2	-11.2	9.9	1.6	-8.3
UK	6.4	25.0	18.6	3.0	14.9	11.9
EUR 15(1)	207.2	167.9	-39.3	302.8	134.0	-168.9
ISL	0.0	44.2	44.2	0.2	66.7	66.5
NOR	5.1	97.8	92.7	3.4	167.1	163.7
EEA(1)	212.3	309.9	97.6	306.4	367.8	61.3

(1) includes trade between member countries

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Balance of trade in salted, dried and smoked fish: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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Foreign trade in fish conserves

In 1995 the EEA had a deficit of 283 thousand tonnes in the foreign trade in fish conserves. This was due primarily to very large imports by France and the United Kingdom.

A review of the situation since 1970 shows that the EEA deficit was under 100 thousand tonnes until 1985 but that thereafter the deficit has increased rapidly.

Foreign trade in fish conserves.

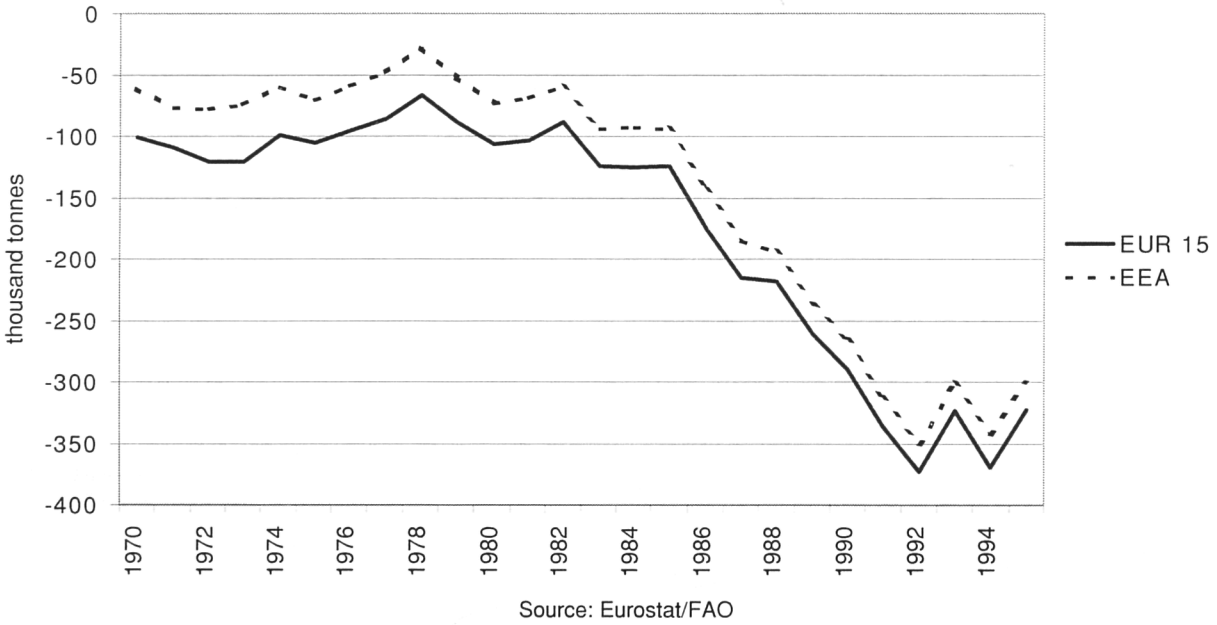
(thousand tonnes product weight)

	1970			1995		
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Imports	Exports	Balance
B/L	16.7	0.3	-16.4	37.2	5.5	-31.7
DK	7.8	9.8	2.0	16.2	70.8	54.6
D	35.9	9.8	-26.1	121.4	81.7	-39.8
EL	5.1	0.1	-5.0	7.4	2.4	-5.0
E	0.3	39.9	39.6	40.0	55.3	15.3
F	40.1	2.4	-37.7	148.2	33.6	-114.6
IRL	1.3	0.6	-0.7	10.1	5.0	-5.1
I	16.3	0.9	-15.4	75.0	10.1	-64.9
NL	7.8	6.8	-1.0	31.2	39.9	8.7
A	11.0	0.1	-10.9	20.3	3.5	-16.8
P	0.4	45.0	44.6	8.8	35.9	27.1
FIN	10.7	0.1	-10.6	11.7	0.5	-11.1
S	21.9	3.8	-18.1	24.5	16.9	-7.6
UK	54.5	9.2	-45.3	144.7	31.0	-113.7
EUR 15(1)	229.8	128.8	-101.0	696.6	392.1	-304.5
ISL	0.1	7.1	7.0	0.3	2.2	1.9
NOR	4.2	37.3	33.1	9.7	29.4	19.7
EEA(1)	234.1	173.2	-60.9	706.6	423.7	-282.9

(1) includes trade between member countries

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Balance of trade in fish conserves: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Foreign trade in crustaceans & molluscs (except conserves)

eurostat

In 1995 the EEA had a large deficit of 568 thousand tonnes in the foreign trade in all crustacean and molluscan products except conserves. Spain, Italy and France were the major causes of this deficit.

A study of the period 1970-95 reveals that until 1979 the deficit was under 100 thousand tonnes. Indeed in 1972 it was only 2 thousand tonnes. However after 1979 the deficit increased rapidly.

Foreign trade in crustaceans and molluscs (except conserves)

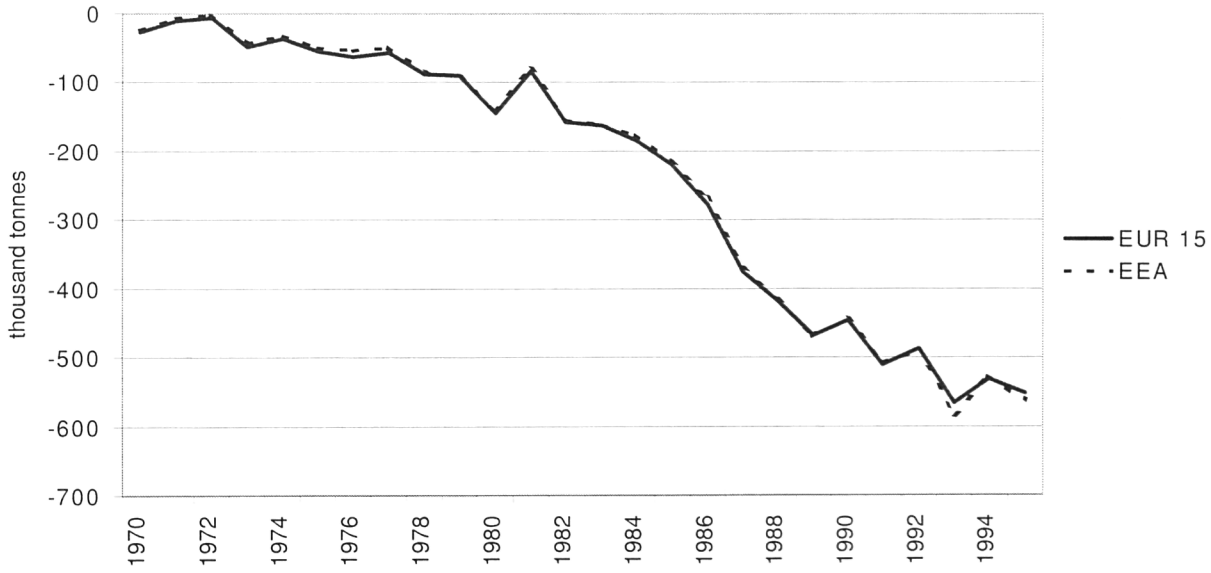
(thousand tonnes product weight)

	1970			1995		
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Imports	Exports	Balance
B	23.5	0.3	-23.2	65.2	20.1	-45.1
DK	1.6	6.6	5.0	46.1	57.5	11.4
D	3.3	7.0	3.7	45.9	16.1	-29.9
EL	2.5	2.7	0.2	19.8	11.4	-8.3
E	18.4	41.0	22.6	316.4	105.0	-211.5
F	72.3	6.6	-65.7	160.4	40.0	-120.4
IRL	0.4	5.0	4.6	2.8	19.9	17.1
I	22.8	6.2	-16.6	208.7	37.7	-171.0
NL	11.7	55.5	43.8	68.8	75.2	6.3
A	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.5	0.1	-1.4
P	2.1	8.0	5.9	36.2	13.8	-22.4
FIN	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.5	0.1	-0.4
S	6.1	0.3	-5.8	13.3	2.6	-10.6
UK	7.4	6.1	-1.3	37.3	66.4	29.1
EUR 15(1)	172.5	145.7	-26.8	1 022.8	465.9	-557.0
ISL	0.0	1.8	1.8	6.3	11.4	5.1
NOR	0.5	1.5	1.0	24.1	8.0	-16.1
EEA(1)	173.0	149.0	-24.0	1 053.2	485.3	-568.0

(1) includes trade between member countries

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Balance of trade in crustaceans and molluscs (except conserves): 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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Foreign trade in crustacean & molluscan conserves

In 1995 the EEA had a trade deficit in crustacean and molluscan conserves of 40 thousand tonnes. with the United Kingdom, France and Germany being the major contributors. Only the Netherlands and Ireland of EU Member States had positive balances but the situation was further improved by positive contributions from Iceland and Norway.

The 1995 situation was a deterioration of that in 1970 when the EEA deficit was only 16 thousand tonnes. Indeed over the period 1970-1992 there was quite a strong trend of a deteriorating trade balance but between 1992-1995 the situation did improve somewhat.

Foreign trade in crustacean and molluscan conserves

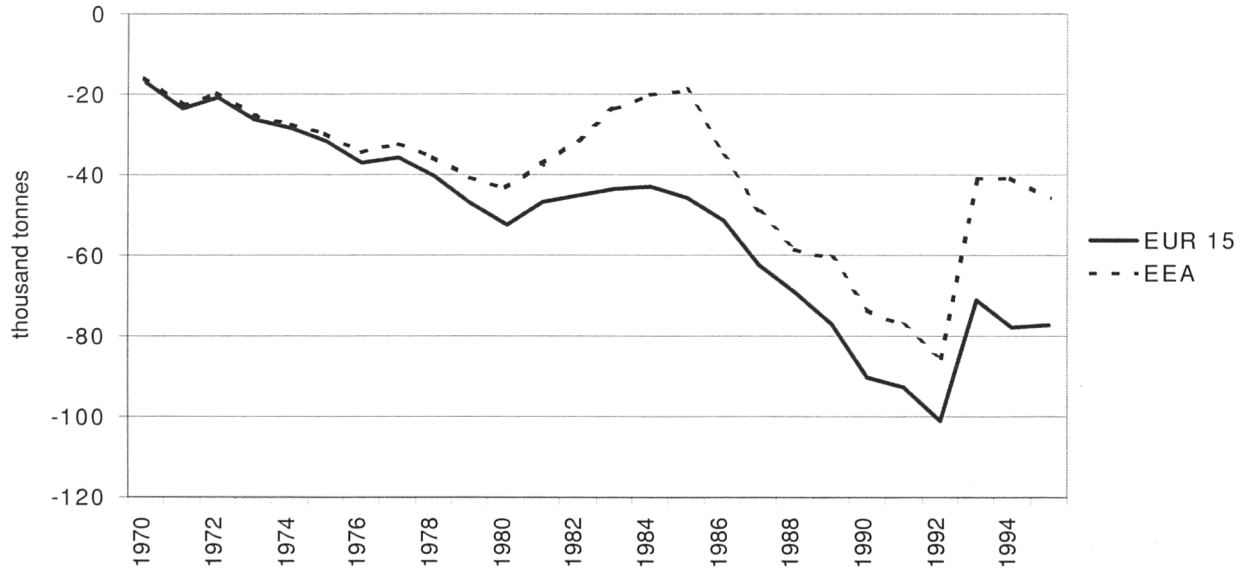
(thousand tonnes product weight)

	1970			1995		
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Imports	Exports	Balance
B	3.7	0.1	-3.6	12.6	7.7	-4.8
DK	3.9	4.5	0.6	24.5	33.1	8.6
D	3.3	1.0	-2.3	23.0	3.2	-19.8
EL	2.7	0.0	-2.7	2.4	1.7	-0.7
E	1.6	5.5	3.9	16.4	17.4	0.9
F	8.3	1.4	-6.9	32.9	5.4	-27.5
IRL	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.3	2.8	2.5
I	0.9	0.1	-0.8	12.8	1.0	-11.8
NL	1.9	2.8	0.9	12.8	33.6	20.8
A	0.2	0.0	-0.2	1.1	0.0	-1.1
P	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.1	-0.9
FIN	0.2	0.0	-0.2	1.9	0.0	-1.9
S	5.7	0.3	-5.4	8.5	0.9	-7.6
UK	1.1	0.0	-1.1	33.2	4.7	-28.4
EUR 15(1)	33.6	17.0	-16.6	183.5	111.8	-71.7
ISL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	22.4	22.4
NOR	0.6	1.6	1.0	2	11.3	9.3
EEA(1)	34.2	18.6	-15.6	185.5	145.5	-40.0

(1) includes trade between member countries

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Balance of trade in crustacean and molluscan conserves: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

Foreign trade in fish meal

Fish meal is an important component of many animal feeding-stuffs. In 1995 the EEA had a foreign trade deficit of 354 thousand tonnes with the United Kingdom and Netherlands having the greatest individual deficits of 219 thousand and 139 thousand tonnes respectively. Denmark and Iceland, countries with major industrial fisheries for the raw product of fish meal (capelin, Norway pout, sand-eels), have large positive trade balances. The other major EEA industrial fishing nation, Norway, has a negative balance primarily because much of the fish meal it produces is used in the large salmon culture industry.

In 1970 the trade deficit was much greater at 1.2 million tonnes. Most of the individual countries had worse balances in 1970 than in 1995. Germany is the extreme example with a deficit of 521 thousand tonnes compared with a deficit of 54 thousand tonnes in 1995. The exception to the general situation was that in Norway where in 1970 (when the salmon culture industry was in its infancy) there was a positive balance of 249 thousand tonnes.

Foreign trade in fish meal

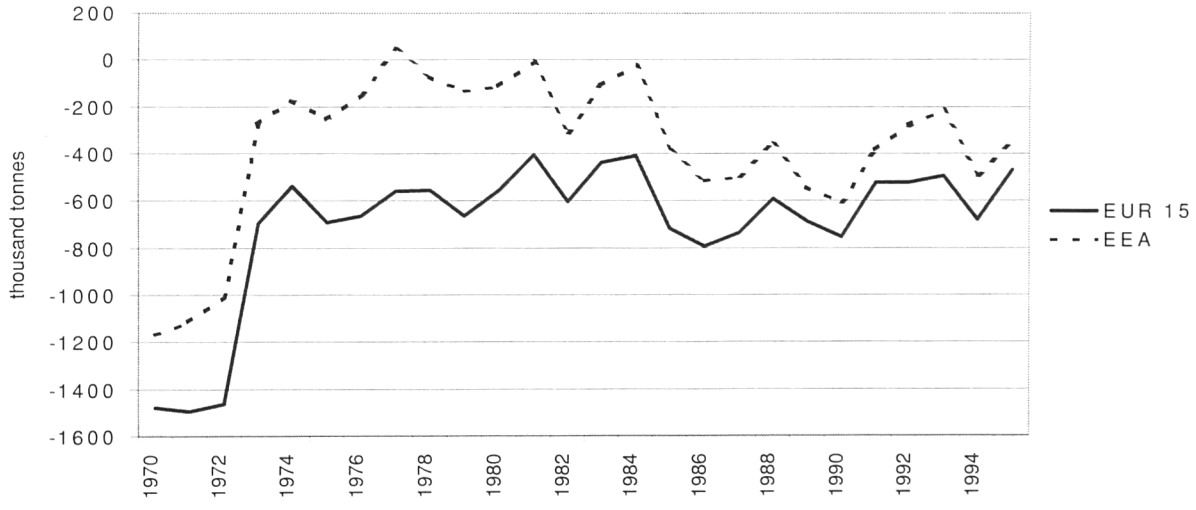
(thousand tonnes product weight)

	1970			1995		
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Imports	Exports	Balance
B	95.4	0.6	-94.8	51.0	7.9	-43.1
DK	18.8	183.0	163.2	81.6	355.7	274.1
D	542.1	21.1	-521.1	268.1	213.6	-54.4
EL	10.0	0.0	-10.0	31.1	0.1	-31.0
E	117.2	2.1	-115.1	62.0	7.0	-55.0
F	94.9	6.4	-88.5	82.2	10.0	-72.2
IRL	23.4	2.3	-21.1	24.2	21.7	-2.5
I	114.1	0.1	-114.0	98.7	20.2	-78.6
NL	133.9	37.3	-96.6	206.7	67.4	-139.3
A	57.5	0.1	-57.4	17.2	0.7	-16.6
P	23.4	7.3	-16.1	6.8	0.4	-6.4
FIN	39.3	0.0	-39.3	32.8	0.1	-32.7
S	74.8	0.5	-74.3	2.2	7.1	4.9
UK	368.3	12.2	-356.1	244.2	24.9	-219.3
EUR 15(1)	1 713.1	235.6	-1 477.5	1 208.7	736.9	-471.9
ISL	0.0	63.8	63.8	0.6	173.8	173.2
NOR	0.8	248.9	248.9	121.3	65.6	-55.6
EEA(1)	1 713.9	548.3	-1 164.8	1 330.6	976.3	-354.3

(1) includes trade between member countries

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Balance of trade in fish meal: 1970-95



Source: Eurostat/FAO

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Foreign trade in fish oils

In 1995 the EEA had a foreign trade deficit of 65 thousand tonnes of fish oils. The situation in the various countries differs greatly: from deficits in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of 188 000 and 113 000 tonnes respectively to positive balances in Denmark and Iceland of 126 000 and 91 000 tonnes respectively. This situation is a great improvement on 1970 when the deficit was 430 thousand tonnes. In fact the improvement has occurred since 1985 when the deficit was the greatest recorded at 780 thousand tonnes.

Foreign trade in fish oils

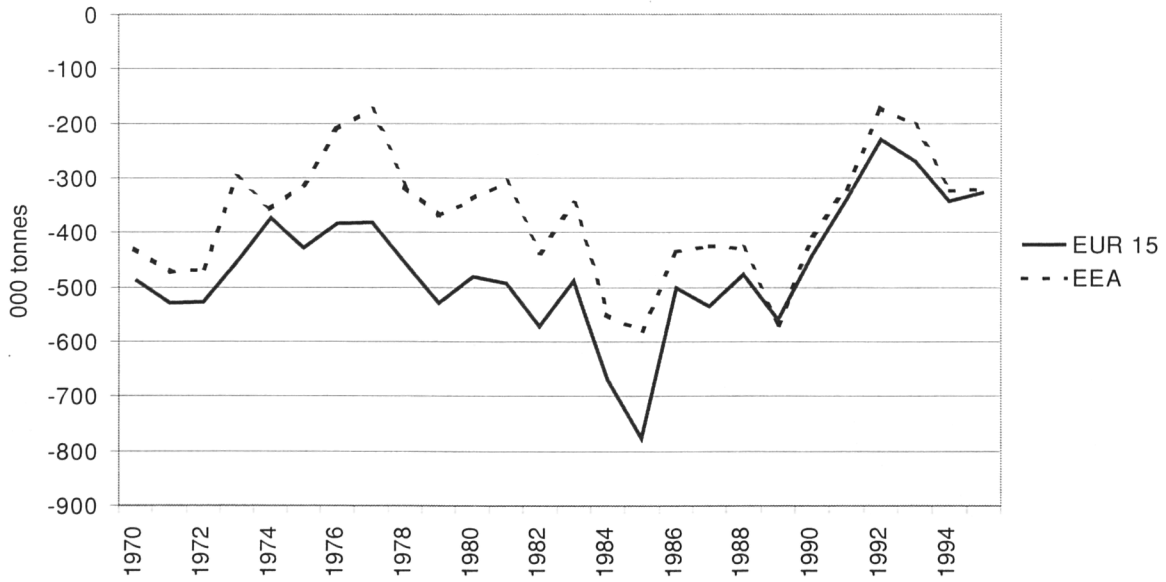
(thousand tonnes product weight)

	1970			1995		
	Imports	Exports	Balance	Imports	Exports	Balance
B	16.2	1.2	-15.0	10.0	2.5	-7.5
DK	16.8	27.5	10.7	14.6	140.6	126.0
D	143.5	5.7	-137.8	87.6	16.5	-71.1
EL	0.4	0.0	-0.4	0.6	0.0	-0.6
E	9.2	3.2	-6.0	17.0	3.5	-13.5
F	28.2	5.7	-22.5	44.5	21.2	-23.3
IRL	0.1	1.0	0.9	2.8	0.1	-2.7
I	8.5	0.3	-8.2	28.2	0.0	-28.2
NL	121.1	5.0	-116.1	215.1	27.0	-188.1
A	1.0	0.0	-1.0	1.0	0.0	-1.0
P	0.0	9.9	9.9	1.0	2.5	1.5
FIN	2.4	0.0	-2.4	6.2	0.0	-6.2
S	34.5	3.5	-31.0	6.2	7.4	1.2
UK	176.5	8.4	-168.1	128.5	15.1	-113.4
EUR 15(1)	558.4	71.4	-487.0	183.5	111.8	-71.7
ISL	0.0	17.4	17.4	0.3	91.4	91.1
NOR	37.6	77.1	39.5	174.6	90.1	-84.5
EEA(1)	596.0	165.9	-430.1	358.4	293.3	-65.1

(1) includes trade between member countries

Source: Eurostat/FAO

Balance of trade in fish oils: 1970-95



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2146 Sandton
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SOUTH KOREA

Information Centre for Europe (ICE)
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121-210 Seoul
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